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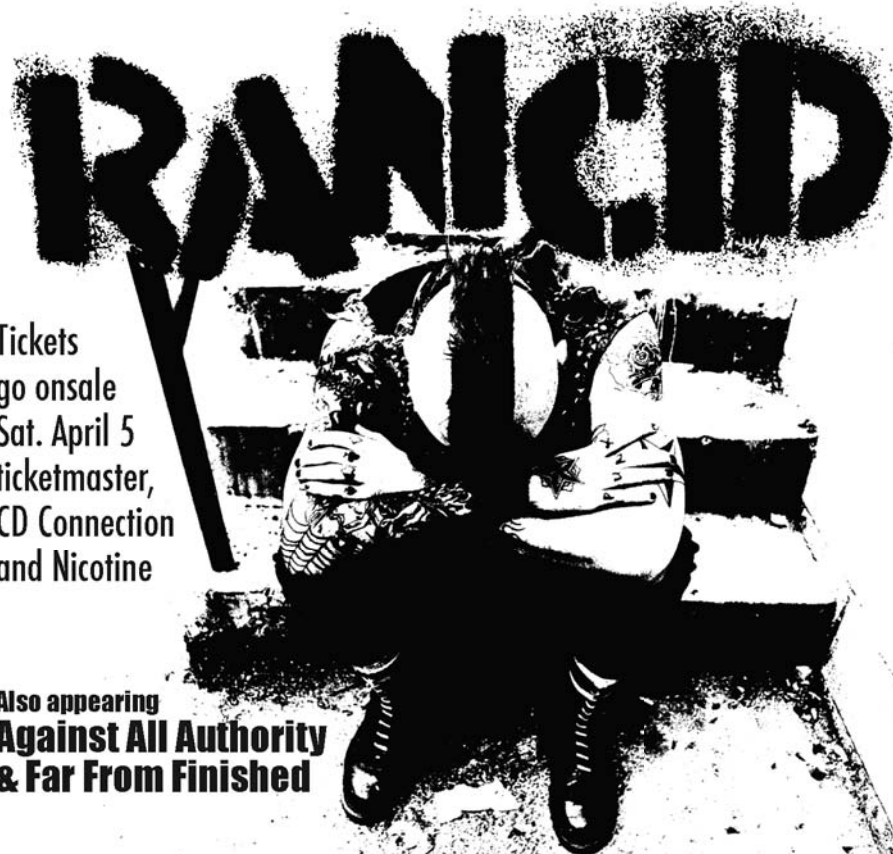
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Community Gardening by **erin thursby**

“I think every vegetable garden is eco-friendly,” says Philip Ramsey, one of the founders of the Springfield Community Garden Group.

Anytime you can grow your own food, and fuel isn’t wasted by transporting it, it’s a small victory for the environment.

But Ramsey and the Springfield Community Garden Group have taken their garden to the next level of eco-friendly by growing it all-organic. The shared space gives Jacksonville residents who live in apartments or houses without suitable yards a place to grow organic vegetables. The community garden came out of the Jacksonville Carbon Neutral Initiative, as a way for Jacksonville urbanites to reduce their carbon footprint.

The garden is pretty young and still in the construction phase, so plots are available. Presently be-



tween 10 and 15 people garden on the 1/3 acre lot. Anyone can sign up to claim an area, but they mostly work to serve those living in the urban core. The best way to sign up is to come by the garden (located between 1st and 2nd Street off of Main next to The Pearl) on Saturday about noon or Sundays after 2 pm.

“It’s intended for people to grow their food; something that’s important for sustainable development...All of the materials used in the construction of the garden are salvaged materials...Right now the compost is donated by the Jacksonville Zoo,” says Ramsey.

Currently they’re growing carrots, lettuce, arugula, tomatoes, peas, parsley, some blueberries and even blue potatoes.

If you don’t live in the Springfield/Downtown area, there are several community gardens in Jacksonville where you can grow your own veggies. Some are run by private organizations and groups of citizens, but most in the area are run by the Duval County Extension. While they don’t keep people from using non-organic methods, individual gardeners can choose to go organic with their plots.

“Any resident of Duval County can use the garden space, as long as they follow the good-faith garden agreement,” says Mary Puckett, the Urban Gardening Program Assistant for the Duval County Extension.

The agreement asks that plot holders maintain their plots, and Puckett says that they make sure gardeners “don’t use the produce for sale or profit, but as a way to supplement their family’s diet and to give away to neighbors.”

While there are five such gardens in Jacksonville, the Urban Gardening program is always looking for suitable land and a way to pay for the water used on that land. Three more gardens are in the planning phases. Of the three, they “hope to make two organic, but it needs to go through city council.”

There is a waiting list for garden space, but the Extension Service offers other resources for eco-tastic gardening. Along with plenty of water saving tips for your garden, they have literature and a demo on how to construct a rain barrel for your own rainwater capture. Even if you can’t get into the garden space right away, their classes, workshops and resources offer a connecting point to join the local community of earth-conscious gardeners.

You can also visit the demonstration garden for the latest methods in herb, vegetable, edible flower and hydroponics gardening.

If you’d like to donate to the Urban Gardening Program or if you would like to be a part of it, call Mary Puckett at (904) 387-8850. If she’s off-site, ask for Jeanie Crosby, or just leave a voicemail.



Other networks of people such as Urbfarmers United, began by Victoria Freeman, have sprung up to support Jacksonville’s burgeoning population of private organic gardeners. She also runs a bed & breakfast (The House on Cherry Street) serving her guests food enhanced by goodies from her organic garden. EU had the chance to ask her about her methods and all-natural garden in the Riverside Avondale neighborhood.

EU: What are the challenges of going organic?

Victoria Freeman: The major challenge of going organic is perfection. The lettuce may have holes. The apples (yes I grow Israeli Annas) have blemishes. The blueberries are small.

EU: What method do you use to compost?

VF: I compost using four methods: hot, cold, trench, and Vermiculture (which is a fancy way of saying worms. They live in a condo called Vermalot)

EU: Where do you get your fertilizer?

VF: You can buy organic fertilizer at any large garden store. I primarily use compost and compost tea. On occasion, a dear friend of mine gives me chicken manure.

EU: What kind of ground cover do you use for your lawn?

VF: My lawn is growing smaller by the month. For my major areas I use the old Pensacola Bahia grass. It is a landscapers’ nightmare because of its unruly stalks but requires no fertilizer or pesticides. I knock the offending V off of it using a sling blade. It is great exercise for my upper arms.

EU: What about pest control? How do you handle that?

VF: I use several methods: blasts of water to knock off offenders, interplanting items bugs love with plants





Barbara Jackson's succulents

they hate, and hiring six-year old boys to gather giant grasshopper heads (5 heads for a nickel). Because I grow organically, my bird population is huge and the birds take care of many pests. Mallory, the wonder cat, catches an occasional mouse. There are organic pesticides, but I don't use them.

EU: What are the benefits of going organic?

VF: The benefits of going organic are several. First, my granddaughter Ryn can follow me into the garden and nibble on almost anything she can put her tiny hands on. There are no pesticides, fungicides, mildewcides for me to worry about. Bees, birds and butterflies are safe. My guests bring in herbs for omelets and I don't worry about residue. The food has a higher nutritional value than transported or traditionally grown food. I am improving this soil for this place. In organics, you feed the soil and the soil feeds the plants. Because I live on the river, I am keenly aware of pollution. No fertilizer or pesticide goes into the St. Johns from my property.

EU: I'd heard that you share your garden with others, that you're kind of a neighborhood garden for folks that don't really have a yard...Can you tell me a little about your community experiences?

VF: I have five neighbors who garden organically on my yard. They have no sun or no available yard themselves. I have also started a group of urban farmers who meet together periodically to share food that we have grown. The group is called Urbfarmers United. Not all of them are completely organic, but all of them grow food in the city. Local food is crucial. We swap ideas and occasionally swap produce. If it is organic fine, but really growing food period is the key message. We only care ABOUT that which we care FOR. Gardeners know that Mother Earth sustains all of us. Pot, patch or plot; it all adds up. Each tomato we pick from the trellis on the condo patio is one less transported item and that means a bit smaller carbon footprint for us all.

Call Vicki Freeman at (904) 384-1999 for more info on getting involved with Urbfarmers.

Keeping your Lawn Green and River Friendly

by erin thursby

We've all seen it. Automated sprinkler systems that only water concrete instead of actual plant life. Sprinklers going off during a driving rain. These abuses are a waste of water and cause runoff that actually hurts the St. Johns River. It isn't just commercial interests that cause the problem; private homes also have some of the same water waste issues.

"If you have an irrigation system, never just set it and forget it. A study was recently completed by researchers at UF that found that homeowners can reduce the water that they use by a 1/3 if they consistently re-adjust the system throughout the year to coincide with normal rainfall patterns and soil moisture levels. Those savings increase to 50% if systems are replaced with drip irrigation." says Jimmy Orth, Executive Director of the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

Orth is a water conservationist with the river's best interests at heart, but he also knows that watering too much can result in a thirstier, weaker lawn. He recommends that you "look for signs of stress before watering (i.e. the grass blades are closing up and you leave footprints in the grass when you walk on it)."

Make sure you water at night or early morning rather than the heat of the day (it's actually illegal to water between 10 am and 4 pm) and water the ground rather than the leaves. Twice a week at about ¾ of an inch, when it hasn't rained, is best for most lawns.

"If you don't have an irrigation system, only water when necessary. Pay close attention to the rainfall patterns and the signs that indicate when your lawn and plants need watering. Often, we receive enough rain and don't need to provide additional irrigation during those times."

Adding too much fertilizer to your lawn will just create the sort of runoff that made our river sickly green a few years ago. The same things that feed your lawn (such as nitrogen) also feed the algae blooms that smother fish and other aquatic wildlife. An abundance of fertilizer isn't necessarily better for your lawn either, since your lawn can only absorb so much nitrogen at a time.

"Many people think that more is better, and this is not true. Over fertilizing your grass can actually weaken your lawn and make it more susceptible to insects, weeds and disease," says Orth.

Designed to release over time, instead of giving your lawn an immediate jolt of fertilizers, slow release organic fertilizers will ultimately strengthen your lawn and are the best choice for the health of the river. Look for slow release instead of the common non-organic, quick release formulas, which will get you speedy results, but can also lead to shallow root systems. That means that your lawn will continually need more water, more fertilizer to maintain it, and will be more susceptible to disease and pests. When the over fertilization causes other problems in your lawn, it can lead to even more chemicals eventually finding their way into the river, in an endless cycle.

According to the Riverkeeper website stjohnsriverkeeper.org, the magic number for slow release nitrogen is 30% or more. Many fertilizers that claim to have slow release often only have a smaller percentage than 30%. In order to calculate the percentage of slow release, you'll need to divide the "slowly available nitrogen" by the total amount of nitrogen in the fertilizer (for example, if the slowly available nitrogen in the mix is 25% and the total nitrogen is 50%, you would divide 25 by 50, which comes to .50, or 50 % slow release).

Most of Florida has an abundant quantity of phosphorus, so you generally don't need to add any more to your soil. That means you should choose local fertilizer or fertilizer without (or low) in phosphorus. You'll find three numbers on the label, the nitrogen content first, followed by a dash, then the Phosphorus and lastly the Potassium or Potash. Each area of the country (or even of Jacksonville) has its own unique soil conditions (you can have your pH and soil tested by the Duval County Extension). Florida is mostly sand, with a limited amount of organic matter (such as decayed plant life, animals and animal waste) in the soil. Using an organic fertilizer increases the amount of organics in the soil and this helps to retain nutrients and water.

At Ace Hardware, you can buy Green Edge, a product made with JEA biosolids. Not only is it a local product (which means that very little gasoline was used to transport it); it's also organic and recycles Jacksonville waste. The Hall's Ace on Blanding, the Hagan's Ace on San Jose in Mandarin and the Arlington Road Ace all regularly carry Green Edge. Make sure you call ahead to ask if they have any in stock. If you can't get Green Edge, try Milorganite. See the Riverkeeper's page on their website stjohnsriverkeeper.org/greenMonster_Fertilizer.asp for a list of river friendly fertilizers.

When you fertilize is as important as *what* you fertilize with, as far as the health of the river and the health of your lawn is concerned. As with watering, check the forecast before you fertilize. A hard rain can wash away your efforts, polluting and keeping your lawn from absorbing the fertilizer. Orth recommends spreading fertilizer in the early spring "to give a lawn an extra boost during the growing season." Summer showers, which are frequent here in Florida, mean that it's a bad season to feed your lawn. In some counties it's actually illegal to fertilize during the rainiest months.

This "less is more" treatment of your lawn not only helps save the environment, it can help save your dollars. Less watering means a lower water bill. The stronger root system encouraged by not applying copious amounts of fertilizer and water means that less of your grass will die and you won't have to re-sod, which also takes money out the door. A tough lawn also means that you won't be spending as much cash on pest treatments.



Jim Draper's front yard garden

How you cut your lawn is also an important element. A mulching mower will turn your grass clippings into natural fertilizer, so you won't have to add as much of the bagged stuff. Keep the grass longer instead of shorter: the Riverkeeper recommends that you "never cut off more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at each cutting." Higher grass is another way to promote a deeper root system and hardier grass. You'll want your mower blades razor sharp; the cleaner cut will result in less of a loss of moisture. Speaking of moisture, you'll want to mow when it is dry. A soggy lawn means that the mower has to work harder, resulting in rips in the grass instead of cuts. Rips in the grass weakens it, making it dry in appearance and susceptible to death and disease. It also means that *you'll* have to work harder, as anyone who has ever tried to mow a wet lawn can tell you.

As far as pest control is concerned, one of the things that eco and river-friendly gardeners have in common is that they either let nature take care of itself or they spot treat rather than blanketing the whole lawn with a general pesticide. They target specific pests with specific remedies that often don't involve any pesticides at all, (such as using a soap and water solution to keep aphids off leaves).

(continued on page 8)

TAPPING THE ST. JOHNS
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(RIVER FRIENDLY, continued from page 7)



Jake Ingram's Cabbage

Planting organically means that more birds will come to help rid your lawn of bugs. If you're planting something that's prone to a certain kind of pest, there's often other greenery you can plant in between the plants the bugs desire. Garlic and chives can repel aphids, a type of plant lice that infests lettuce and peas. Some people also interplant hot peppers to keep the bugs at bay. Marigolds are also a popular choice to keep many bugs and even rabbits from taking over your garden.

If you don't know how to handle the bugs yourself, there are some environmentally responsible pest control companies in the area that have the knowledge to take care of everything from mosquitoes and ants to termites.

"We use a combination of natural mineral dusts, powders and enzymes," says Gina Miller, co-owner of Nature's Way Pest Control and Lawn Care. "We also compost tea to allow your lawn to balance, which can take care of a number of bug and fungus problems."

Spot treatment is also the rule for weed control. If you must use an herbicide, spot treat instead of going over your entire lawn. Hand weeding is the best method. Since most people hate the drudgery of weeding, it's lucky that many area lawn services in the offer weekly hand weeding.

"Hand weeding is what we do most," says Seth Barr of Holistic Gardens "You can't always get them before they seed. Some weeds are from trees or don't spread by seed, but if you keep on them they don't get out of control."

Check out stjohnsriverkeeper.org/greenMonster.asp and click on the various articles on the right side bar for more technical details on hardy or native plants, lawn alternatives, fertilizers, watering tips, weeds and pest control. There's also a list of local resources that can help educate you about your greenery, from sites on waterfront yards and organic gardening to county offices and the Florida native Plant Society.

If every person with a lawn took the time to look for greener alternatives, they'd save their money, lawn and maybe even their river. That little bit of time and care pays off, because after your initial investment, you'll find that a river-friendly lawn is easier to care for.

the incredible shrinking lawn

secrets of a river-friendly
 yard by erin thursby

One of the ways to use the smallest amount of water and fertilizers is to create alternative landscaping, other than the typical, boring expanse of St. Augustine grass.

Eliminate as much of your lawn as possible by creating beds. The less lawn you have, the more efficient it is. This can make for a very eye-catching array of greenery. You can put useful and decorative plants in your beds. Anything from herbs and veggies to native and hardy plants can beautify your lawn.

There are a number of local gardeners who have put this into practice.

Barbra Jackson, a member of the Native Plant Society and owner of a certified Florida Friendly Yard, has eliminated all the conventional grass in her yard in favor of beds filled with hardy or eco-friendly plants.

"So many people in Florida have St. Augustine grass in their brains as ground cover," she says of the common tendency for people not to explore their alternatives.

Among her drought tolerant Florida friendlies, she also plants butterfly-friendly plants such as milkweed and penta to add extra color to her yard.

Jake Ingram, a retired landscape architect and former employee of the St. Joe Company, has planted nearly his entire front yard in native Florida plants (with only two non-natives).



Silverbell in Jake Ingram's yard

He advocates the use of natives because “they’re already adapted to Florida.” Even when choosing non-natives, he believes in choosing plants that “adapt well to the soil we have.” Using mostly pine straw and pine bark for mulch, he stays away from cypress, as do most conservationists and eco-conscious gardeners.

“They harvest young cypress from the wetlands because they chip more easily...cypress is important because it takes the excess water up...when it floods.”

Cypress is important to the cycle of the wetlands and grows more slowly than pine, which naturally sheds its needles. Pine needles and bark are abundant and can be found in park pathways and neighbor’s yards all over Florida. Pine is also farmed rather than taken from wetlands.

Both Ingram and Jackson have a vegetable garden in their yard, but area resident and Riverkeeper board member Jim Draper actually uses vegetables as landscaping for his front lawn, proving once again that functional can be pretty.

Draper meets the challenges of water conservation in his sloped yard by creating catch points for the water. His brick pathways have earth between the bricks instead of mortar so that the water has the opportunity to soak into the ground rather than running off into the street. These pathways are lower than the rest of yard to further pool the water. Mulching also keeps water waste at bay, as another method of trapping moisture and stopping runoff. Draper even kept things earth-friendly when building the beds and water catch points by using found materials. He landscapes this way instead of keeping a standard grass lawn which he says would “let the water run down in sheets.” A standard grass lawn wouldn’t catch the water as efficiently, resulting in more runoff waste that would end up in the river.

These gardeners save money on their water bills and they have fresh edibles to bring in from the yard whenever a dish needs perking up. To be able to walk out into your garden and get a freshly cut herb or to collect spring greens for a fantastic organic salad is a quality of life worth imitating.

Turning a regular lawn into an eco-sustainable paradise is a task that takes time and care. And that’s really the point. Everything that’s bad for the earth and supposedly good for your lawn involves immediate results to make it as pretty as possible as soon as possible, with the least amount of effort. Establishing an eco-friendly lawn and garden takes more time and exertion to begin with, but it doesn’t result in an endless cycle of quick fixes that are ultimately more work. We might live in a disposable, convenience-based society, but going green with your lawn (and I don’t just mean the color) makes a difference. It might not save the entire planet, but you’ll know that at the very least, there’s one patch of earth that isn’t contributing to its demise.

a greener u

Getting Greener with Every Bite

by jennifer mccharen from the jacksonville carbon neutral initiative

“People think I’m slightly crazy when I tell them to go home and garden, but a little thought and reading will convince them that this is, in fact, the solution to many world problems.” -Bill Mollison

The food that makes up the average American dinner travels 1500 miles from farm to plate, requiring ten calories of fossil fuel energy for each single food calorie.

Apart from being jealous that your food gets to travel more than you, think about the other effects of that energy imbalance. Basically, we’re leaning too heavily on a weak leg—a problematic and nonrenewable resource. Our excessive use of cheap fossil energy causes air pollution, global warming and war. Our over-reliance on cars (fueled by that cheap energy) has led to the design of cities like ours, sprawling and hostile to pedestrians and cyclists.

What’s more, the food calories we get from the gas-powered food industry are actually making us less healthy. Researchers have found a clear relationship between rates of diabetes and increased consumption of refined sugars such as high-fructose corn syrup. As we eat fewer fresh vegetables and more empty calories from processed foods we not only get fatter, we get sicker, right along with our planet and our society.

The good news is that a greener life may be as easy as choosing a greener diet, literally. For example, if you made the choice to eat mostly vegetarian, organic and local foods, you’d be helping the planet far more than if you invested in a brand



The Springfield Community Garden

new hybrid car. But speaking of green, how do you deal with the fact that organic food costs so much? Organic produce can cost between ten and thirty percent more than conventional, while organic processed foods can cost up to 100% more. Our answer, and the reason this article belongs in an entertainment paper: Grow it yourself! Or better yet, come grow it with us!

Growing your own food. It’s a terribly simple concept that we’ve left behind in favor of convenience, at the cost of our health, the environment, and our sense of place. It’s a lot of fun, too. Thankfully we live in a climate with an extremely long growing season, and a city with a rapidly growing community of rabid localvores. Here’s a few ways to get started:



The Springfield Community Garden (904-657-1177 or www.jaxgreen.org): This is JCNI’s pet project at the moment. Just north of The Pearl nightclub at 1101 N. Main Street we’re building a raised-bed garden out of salvaged and donated materials. We work together on weekends starting at noon. Sundays at 2 pm we have a potluck lunch together. Come visit or get in touch if you want to rent a plot (sweat equity accepted).

The Beaches Green Market: For the best in local produce, eggs (they sell out fast!), small-batch roasted fair-trade coffee, and some of the friendliest folks on Earth, stop by Twisted Sisters (1266 Beach Blvd.) on Saturdays from 2-5 pm.

The House on Cherry Street (384-1999), and the Jenks House B&Bs (387-2092): Both located in Riverside, these two B&Bs have beautiful gardens from which they serve their guests.

Duval County Extension Office Urban Gardens: Contact Mary Puckett (387-8850 or mpuckett@coj.net) to find out about the Extension Office’s gardening programs. In addition to providing free advice to gardeners and inexpensive classes, they run a number of community gardens and can help you start one in your neighborhood! They’re currently assisting the Beaches Green Market folks (see above) with a new garden. Yes, it’s a small world.!

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photo by A.M. Stewart

take action

help from the green team project by a.m. stewart

If your child licks the kitchen floor, do you begin to worry? We all know kids behave silly and do unexpected things. But how do you know the chemicals you use to clean your kitchen floor won't harm your little ones, yourself or future generations?

Sarah Boren doesn't worry. That's because she concocts her own non-toxic, earth-friendly cleaning products and has done so for years.

"I feel comfortable if they lick the floor," Sarah says. "They're not going to get poisoned or be hurt."

Sarah, executive director of the Green Team Project, is quick to point out that making your own cleaning products isn't revolutionary, and that our grandmothers made their own during the Great Depression. Alright, so maybe some of our *great* grandmothers, but you get the point. Place baking soda, water and a little of your favorite essential oil together to make an inexpensive, non-toxic, effective household cleaner.

The Green Team Project (GTP), a grassroots environmental non-profit, performs the labor-intensive research for the best ways to conserve resources, reduce waste and improve well being. By well being, the team means that by following their advice you can improve your quality of life by limiting exposure to toxic chemicals and other harmful substances. All you have to do is participate. For seven weeks, the team walks participants through six resource areas: solid waste, water usage, household chemicals, energy use, transportation and community action. Each meeting provides facts about the topic, goals to obtain and action steps each participant should take before the next meeting.

For example, GTP suggests participants consider a 20 percent cut in home energy use and related pollutants. The Green Team says: low-energy laundry. Wash only full loads, use only cold water, use a clothes line or drying rack (your clothes will last longer this way, too), dry loads one after another while the dryer is still hot or use a gas dryer as they're more efficient and cost less. According to Sarah, there are more than 40 actions per resource area you can take to reduce emissions.

So why worry about cleaning products that continue to be on the market? Our government makes sure they're safe to use, right? Not exactly.

Recently, a report on the potential hazards of home cleaning products was published by the organization, Women's Voices for the Earth. The report, *Household Hazards*, ([www.womenandenvironment.org/campaignsandprograms/SafeCleaning/ResourcesCleaning/document view](http://www.womenandenvironment.org/campaignsandprograms/SafeCleaning/ResourcesCleaning/document%20view)) provides information about certain chemicals in cleaning products that cause health problems, including asthma and birth defects. The report describes how home cleaning products are generally overused and utilized in amounts that are over concentrated, thus leading to health problems. These chemicals are largely without regulation or adequate research. Companies that manufacture household cleaning products are not required to include or disclose the chemicals used in their products.

Creating your own cleaning supplies is easy, saves money and is environmentally friendly. GTP encourages people to take simple steps like this, making household cleaners and low energy laundry.

"Everyone has different motivating factors," Sarah says.

Whether saving money and improving health are your motivations or protecting the environment and future generations, anyone can gain important information.

Meetings consist of 6 to 8 participants. GTP can place individuals in groups close to their area or groups of friends can request a session. GTP also offers lectures and individually guided courses.

"The group method is the most effective," Sarah says, "because you get the most actions from each person."

When people participate in group settings, they are more likely to take action, she says.

"We always need a deadline," Sarah says. "And the team is the motivator."

Did I mention freebies? The team gives out low-flow shower heads, compact fluorescents and a resource binder full of local information. An average participant saves \$60 to \$500 a year on bills if they continue to implement suggested steps, Sarah says. "We can save small businesses \$5,000 to \$20,000 a year. But it depends on their actions, if they follow through," Sarah says.

Participants are provided with statistical results of their actions upon program completion.

Sarah, who obtained an environmental management Master's degree at Duke University, has committed the last seven years to helping individuals and organizations take steps to reduce their waste and consumption. After implementing several green attributes and adding 500 square feet to her own 1950s house, Sarah was able to see a difference on her energy bill right away. About a \$30 savings. The green attributes include a solar hot water system, sky lights and acquiring a home energy rating (this is where the house is assessed for energy efficiency), just to name a few.

The government even split the tab on some of the green modifications, such as the solar hot water system. Federal and state incentives for renewable energy are available; you just have to find them. A good resource is www.dsireusa.org.

Sarah encourages people to take the first step. Most people don't realize how easy and frugal it can be, she adds. There is a small fee for individuals to participate. But don't worry; you won't be turned away because of financial restraints.

"Try it, you'll like it," Sarah says. "It's easy to be green."

For more information about the Green Team Project visit www.greenteamproject.org.

Take action now!

Tips courtesy of Sarah Boren, executive director of the Green Team Project.

Reduce solid waste: Go to www.stopjunkmail.org, to end needless paper consumption. Go paperless with bank statements and bills. Stop using paper towels and use cloth napkins instead.

Reduce water usage: Install low-flow fixtures like toilets and shower heads. Plant native plants, reduce lawn size and create a rain barrel to reduce outside water use.

Reduce household chemicals: Use homemade, non-toxic cleaning products. Get rid of any product that says 'danger' or 'warning.'

Reduce energy use: Install compact fluorescent light bulbs or a programmable thermostat.

Reduce transportation emissions: Consider trip-linking your errands. In other words, plan an efficient route when running errands. Ask yourself when the best time with the least traffic is, to cut back on idling time. Also, ask yourself if you absolutely need to run the errand.

More resources to help you get started:

www.hes.lbl.gov, a resource to calculate ways to save energy in your home.

www.safecclimate.net/calculator/, a site that can measure your carbon dioxide emissions.

www.myfootprint.org/, measures the resources your lifestyle requires.

www.grrn.org/, a grassroots recycling network.

www.fnps.org/, the Florida Native Plant Society which lists native plants for this area.

www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/, the Florida Solar Energy Center.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HE791>, a site by the University of Florida gives extensive information on the use of alternative household cleaners, including recipes.

earth day 2008 celebrations

2008 Earth Day Jacksonville Ecology Fair

Saturday, April 19

Take the family for a day of fun at the 2008 Earth Day Jacksonville Ecology Fair at the Jacksonville Landing. There will be children's crafts, face painting, live musical performances, prizes and more. All activities are free.

Jacksonville Landing, 10 am – 4 pm

MOSH's Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 19

MOSH will again team up with the City of Jacksonville to present conservation and preservation programs at the Jacksonville Landing. At the Museum, a special workshop will allow Brownies to earn an "Earth is Our Home" badge.

MOSH, Info: (904) 396-MOSH (6674)

Earth Day Celebration in St. Augustine

Saturday, April 19

The Old City Farmer's Market celebrates Earth Day with local musicians, artists, and vendors. St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 8:30am -3pm. Info: (904) 209-3752.

Earth Day Celebration - Party for the Planet!

Sunday, April 20

Celebrate Earth Day at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' Party for the Planet event. Guests can learn how to take care of our earth by visiting

environmental and animal conservation booths. There will also be children's activities and live entertainment.

Jacksonville Zoo, 10 am to 4 pm, Info: (904) 757-4462

Native Sun's First Annual Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 26

Enjoy free giveaways, kid's activities, entertainment and an organic cookout with turkey burgers, veggie burgers, salads, side dishes, ice cream and more. The St. Johns Riverkeeper, Florida Lawn & Neighborhoods, and The Green Team will be on hand to share tips on Going Green.

Native Sun, Mandarin Location ONLY, 10000 San Jose Blvd., 11 am to 5 pm

Info: www.nativesunjax.com or (904) 260-6950

Riverkeeper 3-Day Eco-Heritage Boat Trips

April 8 – 10 (Jacksonville to Sanford) and April 11- 13 (Sanford to Jacksonville) The Eco-Heritage Boat Trips travel along the St. Johns River between Jacksonville and Sanford with stops along the way to visit interesting and beautiful places, such as Trout Creek, Mount Royal, and Silver Glen Springs. Each day passengers enjoy spectacular scenery, delicious lunches, and fascinating speakers and historical re-enactors. The first trip begins on Tuesday, April 8th, leaving at 8:30 am from the Northbank Riverwalk at Pearl Street. The boat is scheduled to arrive in Sanford, FL on April 10th at approximately 5 pm. Info: 904-655-2270



yoga

more than just exercise **by hilary johnson**

One leg is wrapped around the other and your arms are twisted in front of your face. Your balance is maintained by the intense, meditative focus of the mind. Your body is stretching into Garudasana, or the Eagle Pose. You are not only gaining strength and lengthening your muscles, but you are honoring your mind, body, and spirit.

Yoga, which in its simplest form means “to yoke” or “to unite,” is much more than the fitness phenomenon made famous by celebrities like Jennifer Anniston and Madonna. It is a school of Hindu philosophy advocating and prescribing a course of physical and mental disciplines for attaining liberation from the material world. It creates a union of the self with the Supreme Being or ultimate principle.

Sound confusing? Well, it can be. Yoga is part of the religious practices of Hinduism. It has been used as a means to center and focus the mind in order to attain a higher awareness of existence for centuries. It is a way to prepare the body for prayer and meditation.

It just also happens to get the body in great shape, too.

Through a series of disciplined postures and breathing exercises, the yogi can achieve control of the mind *and* the body. This control leads to the ultimate tranquility. And that is where the fad became a really fabulous form of contemporary exercise.

While you sit there on the yoga mat with your legs crossed, your eyes closed, and your breath moving slowly in and out of your lungs, exercise becomes holistic. And even more, it becomes relaxing. Who could imagine that exercise could be relaxing? Perhaps Shiva, one of the six supreme deities of Hinduism. Or maybe it was the Auspicious One, who is one of the first known figures to represent the practice.

Yoga is not simply a set of downward dogs and contortions. It is a complex set of movements and focusing of the mind.

There are many different kinds of yoga. Hatha yoga is a broad classification of the practice of yoga. It includes most yoga practiced in the United States and consists of asanas (postures) and pranyama (breath) and some meditation. Iyengar, bikram, vinyasa, flow, anusara, and power yoga are included under this classification.

A Hatha yoga class will typically be gentle and relaxing, a great place for beginner yogis. But it doesn't have to be easy.

“I can teach a Hatha class and make it very challenging,” said Bonnie Davis, a certified Hatha yoga instructor who gives weekly yoga courses at the Riverside YMCA. Her classes range from gentle to advanced.

Vinyasa yoga is centered more heavily on the focus of the breath. It also incorporates Sun Salutations, which are a sequence of postures that allow the body to warm up, while also centering the body on the breath.

Breath is one of the most important features of yoga. The focus on breath is significantly less in eastern cultures, while western cultures have been aware for centuries of its power and importance. By focusing the mind, the breath allows the body to endure some of the more intense yoga postures, but it

also allows blood to flow more freely through the body, giving the body strength.

Yoga not only unites the mind and the body, but it unites the breath and movement. Without that combination, you could not achieve the postures. This is where the centering of the mind and the body become a spiritual conquest beyond physical strength and shape.

Raja yoga, or Royal yoga, focuses on training the mind and may incorporate aspects of Hatha yoga. Karma yoga and Bhakti yoga also concentrate on the mental aspect of yoga.

“Karma means right action, serving others, and Bhakti means devotion, selfless love,” says Davis. “Mother Theresa is always used as the example.” The two forms are sometimes considered the same, while at times seen as two different practices.

Jnana yoga practices the wisdom path to enlightenment, where one seeks to discriminate between real and unreal. Tantra/Kundalini yoga focuses the senses and Chakras and Mantra yoga uses sound to focus the mind.

Ashtanga yoga, or power yoga, uses a series of postures that are intended to flow seamlessly together. Ashtanga yoga is physically demanding due to the constant movement from one pose to the next.

Iyengar yoga, on the other hand, focuses on the positioning of the body and the holding of postures in correct alignment. Instead of moving from one pose to the next in sequence, one pose is held for a long period of time. Props are also used in Iyengar yoga, such as yoga blankets, belts and cushions that help the body to maintain the correct alignment.

Kundalini yoga focuses on the breath, similar to Vinyasa, but pairs that focus with rapid repetition of various postures. Chanting is often times part of Kundalini yoga and the yogi is intended to explore the effects of the breath on the body.

Bikram yoga, also known as hot yoga, is a series of 26 postures that are done in a room of 95 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The heat is thought to cleanse the mind and body through the loosening of the muscles and profuse sweating.

Some more contemporary forms of yoga have sprung up in the recent increase of interest in this historical tradition. Anusara yoga was founded in 1997 by John Friend. It combines physical movement with the positive teachings of the Tantra – the history, practice, and identification with Deities of the Hindu tradition. Postures are taught in a way that is meant to open the heart, both physically and mentally.

Jivamukti yoga emerged from New York City. Its founders, David Life and Sharon Gannon, emphasize chanting, meditation and the spiritual teachings found in the Ashtanga practices.

Then there is Sivananda yoga, founded in 1957 by Swami Vishnu-devananda, who created the Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Center. There are now close to 80 such centers worldwide. Sivananda yoga is based on five principles: proper exercise (Asana, focusing on 12 poses in particular), proper breathing (Pranayama), proper relaxation (Savasana), proper diet (Vegetarian), and positive thinking and meditation (Dhyana).

As a form of exercise, yoga is known to elongate the muscles, creating a leaner, more slender form. Rumor has it that this outcome began the fascination with the practice in Hollywood. But yoga provides much more than just a trim figure.

Its spiritual and emotional benefits are astounding, allowing the mind to fill with peace and tranquility; a stark contrast to our fast-paced American culture. In the age of technology, with gyms filled with ellipticals and weight machines, yoga uses the body to strengthen itself. It defies the need for distraction to get through a workout. Leave your televisions and iPods behind. Yoga embraces the mind, centers its ability to focus, and uses it to create a stronger self, inside and out. Namaste.

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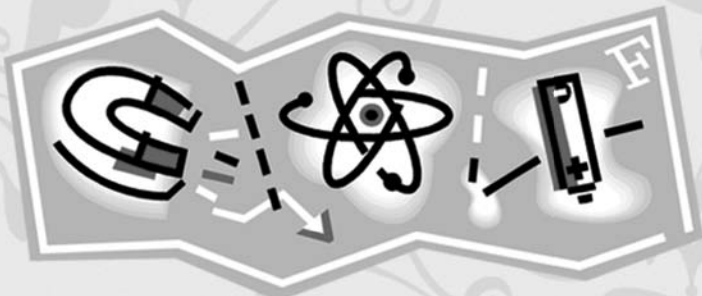
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notes from the bachelor pad

by troy spurlin



You know when you reach that “point” after a few good dates, a few good rolls in the hay, and a few good laughs; you have to throw on the brakes and think about whether you want to keep seeing the other person? Well, when you are working together on decorating a home, it is the same way. Yeah, it’s time for us to evaluate the progress. So let’s take a minute and think through what we have accomplished in the last three months. We have a badass rug (wooly bully), a sophisticated mid-century walnut credenza, and a coffee table that’s as smooth as Remy Martin. It all sounds great. So, what are we missing? I know you are not a talker...and there are two words I’ve been wanting to say to you for a long time: Sofa and Bar!

Let’s start with finding us a sofa, or keeping the one you have if it sounds like the sofa I’m describing. You know me, it can’t be just any sofa. It won’t have round arms, nor will it have a high back, or a skirt for god-sakes! But most importantly, it will not be over-stuffed (that includes the marshmallow puff in black Pleather, you know the one!). It will, however, be the most comfortable, the most tailored, the most “I wanna lay you down and love you all night long” sofa you have ever seen. “Swell, decorator guy.... tell us more!”

I believe that a proper sofa for a guy like us is approximately 86 inches in length. It gives enough room for you to stretch all the way out plus a little extra so that the other person can sit comfortably and rub your feet. Or vice versa, we’re good guys. The depth is important. We want enough room so that we



can spoon during a flick. With this in mind, I recommend a seat depth of 35 inches. Don't go less than 23 inches. You will never be comfortable.

The style needs to be right. It needs to be rectangular with square arms, preferably three seat cushions with three pillow backs (not the kind that are stitched on). We want it in leather (I would only go with brown) but if you find a cool nubby fabric or velvet (velvet is sweeet and there are a number of them to found in the local thrift stores) with no pattern in a solid color (black, gray, beige, white) that will be fine too. Just make sure that they are zippered and can be washed or dry-cleaned. We like to party in our pad!

The back of the sofa needs to be low (sometimes we like to come in from the other side). A good seat back height is 24 to 27 inches. And finally, a tough one: the legs. The legs on our sofa need to be square or cylindrical and made of wood (stained or painted black) or stainless steel. They need to be low profile and sleek. No one likes those big, round, fat legs! Unless you are doing shabby chic! And if you are, stop reading this right now and just turn in your balls.

With that being said, I need a drink. A very cold, shaken hard, very dirty Kettel One martini with three olives on the rocks. And while we are talking about liquor, what is up with liquor bottles grouped on the counter? More to the point, no more liquor bottles grouped on the countertop man! What we need is a bar! We need something swank. Somewhere we can display our liquor, barware, glasses, and napkins that all together say, "Can I offer you a cocktail?"

There are two ways to go here, men; both equally as appealing. One, the old-fashioned, "couple of bar stools" kind of bar and the other, a bar cart. I have the latter. It's 70s, it's lucite, and I found it on craigslist. But they are all over the place and they are inexpensive (Encore Decor, The Consignment Barn, and Hubbard House Thrift House all get them in from time to time). Expect to pay less than 100 bucks.

I like the bar cart opposed to the stationary bar because it's just that, a cart. I can roll it wherever I want to serve drinks: the living room, the patio/balcony, or the bathroom. Versatile. And at 37 inches long x 19 inches wide x 27 inches high, it's great in a little apartment or a big house/ loft. It is acceptable in lucite, danish teak, walnut, or chrome. No black wrought iron and definitely no maple or honey stained woods. Don't even look at one that has any curves or spirals – that's what the old bridge playing Grandmothers have and we certainly don't want that.

A stationary standup bar with matching bar stools is also a viable option. I think they are way cool and I would love to have one, but I don't see them often in thrift or consignment stores, so I am not sure where old bars like this go to die. If you have enough space for this piece, then I would begin my search on craigslist and also put in a quick call to Kelly Langford at Encore Decor and tell him exactly what you are looking for. Regardless, in your search, look for ones made of Danish teak (older "ScanDesign"), walnut veneer, or black laminate. Don't even glance at something made of oak.

We want the design of the bar to complement the other pieces we have worked so hard to find, so choose carefully! A couple of words on the stools: Comfortable (what is up with those bar stools that don't have a back?), vinyl/leather (they can be wiped), and finally "chromed" (reflection is always good).

With the sofa in place and the bar cart stocked, let's have a group over to the pad for martinis. Make sure the bathroom has been bleached (clean it as hard as you can and then, when you are done, Windex the whole bathroom down for one final wipe), hit iTunes for some new sounds (space age is good), make a pitcher of 'tinis and bask in the fruits of our labor. Yeah, I think we have a good thing going. Oh, and if the bathroom thing sounds like I am suffering from O.C.D., I am. Regardless, the ladies likey...

"Notes from the Bachelor Pad" is a continuing article courtesy of troyspurlin INTERIORS. Spurlin has worked for interior decorator Joe Nye in Los Angeles and while employed at MOCA Jacksonville sidelined doing exterior and interior work throughout Jacksonville. Find him online at troyspurlin.com.

netscapades

all-star motivational speaker edition by **brenton crozier**

The EU has decided that it is a fine time to better yourself. Because face it, you're probably a pretty lousy person. Don't take it personally. There are a number of principled avenues to take in the journey of bettering yourself, along with a handful of easier token tactics. Charitable work, religious exploration, regular exercise and healthy eating are all ways to ensure steady progression in your journey. For my part, I try to incorporate more History and Discover Channel programs into my television regimen and be a little more polite when turning down a homeless person soliciting me for a handout.

Perhaps the most important aspect of personal edification is giving over to the professionals; the motivational speakers. These people change lives for a living. Something about a headset microphone and cliché audio-visual techniques are simply inspiring, when done professionally that is. I searched long and hard to find the cream of the crop, forgoing the usual Zig Zeiglers and Joel Osteens to bring you the talented underbelly of this trade. So go ahead, EU readers, take a step to making your lives better—with the most constructive tool of them all, the Internet.

www.buckfoley.com

You will never accuse Buck Foley of being an original. Adapted from the departed Chris Farley's Saturday Night Live character Matt Foley, Buck is taking the shtick and running with it. Well probably not running per se, more of a fast-paced and likely sweat-inducing walk. It's quite inventive really. Entrepreneurs should take note, as there is potential to turn a number of beloved sketch show characters into professional motivational speakers. Show your organization or group how important inspiring them really is, send the decade old sketch show character to turn their spark into full blown fire.



www.garywollin.com

Magicians are no longer relegated to birthday parties or as the warm-up act to the warm-up act in comedy clubs. Gary Wollin is bringing the magic to motivate your professional sales team! With rave reviews like the one from the National Sales Manager of Toyota Motor Sales stating, "I'm sure you put a great deal of time into learning about TOYOTA," who wouldn't want this guy to get the crew all jazzed up and selling? Be sure to watch his incredible promo video. Carrot Top doesn't have anything on this guy when it comes to props. Watch out, the puns are a mile-a-minute, and they are spectacular.

www.giftofstrength.com

Kathy Roberts is a "Lifetime Drug-Free World Champion Powerlifter/Motivational Speaker." Kathy may not have that cut, muscle-bulging look, but she got there without steroids. She will put on a powerlifting display and may even help you move heavy furniture if you need her to. The television-time loving members of Congress need to get Kathy into the Major League Baseball offices, so they can focus on something other than Roger Clemens. Please, please, whatever you do, don't miss Kathy's favorite quotes and thoughts in the "Practice with Kathy" section of the website. She drops life-changing gems like "Holding your bitterness is like drinking rat poison and waiting for the rat to die."



www.debbieleifer.com

Time to get wacky with Debbie Leifer! Sorry Gary, Debbie is pulling out the stops with magic, comedy and mind reading and was apparently called a "Very talented young lady" by President George Bush. Debbie brings her dated look and stunning sequin jacket to reward your employees and clients with "classy, customized meeting magic." From cocktail parties to corporate events, Debbie will delight, charm and motivate the audience like nobody's business.

You could almost skip all of the hard work that goes into bettering yourself with this dynamic lot. I've just had a little taste and feel stimulated already! Volunteer work, healthy living and good time religion may give you long-term progress and real enlightenment, but never discount the truly trivial and sweet short-term satisfaction of the Internet.



Native Sun's Tex Mex Bean Salad

Executive Chef Craig Dion will be opening Penman Square Market and Café (1289 Penman Road, Jacksonville Beach) this Spring. Dion was the innovative chef for Jacksonville Beach's Dolphin Depot in its first six years and also owned and operated Six Burner, a fine dining restaurant of Atlantic Beach. Dion and his wife sold Six Burner in 2005. Both Dolphin Depot and Six Burner have been nationally accredited and recognized consistently as one of Jacksonville's top 25 restaurants.

Penman Square Market and Café will feature chef-prepared entrees, sides, salads, soups, cappuccinos, espresso and desserts. Food will be hand-crafted with no preservatives.

If you've got any local food news you'd like us to dish—please email us at jacksonvilledish@gmail.com.

april foodcentric events

Enjoy Oceanfront Music & Dining Under the Stars

The Casa Marina Hotel & Restaurant at Jacksonville Beach will offer a special courtyard menu and live music by the **Johnston Duo** every Wednesday from 6-9 pm in the oceanfront courtyard. Live music will be performed every Sunday by local musicians such as **Billy Bowers and Mike Shackelford** on the oceanfront deck of the Penthouse Lounge from 2-5 pm. The Penthouse Lounge features martinis, rooftop dining, and a majestic ocean view. The Casa Marina Hotel & Restaurant is located at 691 North 1st Street, Jacksonville Beach, (904) 270-0025.

Cowford Ball, April 5th, 6 pm

The Fairgrounds get fancy at this large annual fundraiser for the Duval County Unit of the American Cancer Society. Gourmet food will be served. Expect live entertainment, auctions and dancing. Jacksonville Fairgrounds Info: (904)398-0537.

ExZOOberation 2008, April 12, at 6:30 pm

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens will host its 13th annual ExZOOberation fundraising gala benefiting the Zoo. The theme for this year's event is "A Night in TUSKany" using an Italian theme, with an animal twist. The casual, adult-oriented gala has become one of Jacksonville's premier events with a total of over \$1.6 million raised for the care and feeding of the Zoo's animals as well as educational programs and conservation initiatives. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served in the Zoo's new Stingray Bay interactive exhibit and then guests will proceed to the Zoo gardens to enjoy animal encounters, entertainment, a silent and live auction, a delicious dinner and dancing. Tickets begin at \$175 per person and can be purchased online at jacksonvillezoo.org or by calling the Development Department at 904-757-4463, ext. 196.

Dining Out for Life, April 24th

Take this night to dine out at Ragland's, Matthew's, Matthew's Market, The Tasting Room, Plaza III, Park Place or Biscottis, where a percentage of your bill will go to benefit local services, providing relief to AIDS victims. Info: nfanjax.org

A Taste of St. Augustine, April 26th

Enjoy the tasty delights as St. Augustine showcases the unique flavors available in the area. More than 30 area restaurants sell signature "tastes" throughout the festival. Taste tickets are \$1 each with restaurants charging between 1 and 5 tickets per taste. Plus there will also be a small \$2 charge for admission. Info: (904) 829-3295 epiccommunityservices.org

notable classes and demos for april

Personal instruction from a five star chef and a look at the kitchen in at the Ritz makes the drive to Amelia Island worthwhile. The two day cooking school might encourage you to stay in this top-rated hotel. Cost varies from about \$339-\$639. Call the Ritz-Carlton (4750 Amelia Island Pkwy., Amelia Island 904-277-1100) for more info.

Blue Bamboo's (3820 Southside Blvd 904- 646-1478) will be holding an Indonesian cooking class on April 19th. Please call to schedule in advance.

Cork & Keg Wine, beginning in April, will be teaching short courses on wine topics to include growing regions of the world, varietals, tasting techniques, history, and vinification. If you think vinification is something you need to say Hail Marys for, and you love wine, these are the classes for you. Classes will be conducted weekly on Tuesday at 6:30pm (except on the second Tuesday of each month) and will last about an hour. It's just \$10 per class to cover materials and wines. The first class will be held on Tuesday, April 1. RSVPs will not be necessary unless you intend to bring a large group.

If Tuesdays are bad for you, sign up for Sips & Tips wine school, which will be held on Thursdays from 6:30 - 8:00pm. These classes will begin on April 3 and will be held for four weeks. Please contact UNF at learnjacksonville.com or by calling (904) 620-4200.

dish q & a

Q: My husband and I are going to the Jacksonville area for our anniversary this weekend. I am intrigued by the Tapas restaurants. There is nothing like them around here. Is it considered rude to eat at one of these establishments if you don't drink?

A: You're not obligated to drink anything anywhere, even at a wine bar. Even though waiters love lushes (because the price of alcohol drives up the bill price and their tip) as the customer, the staff is serving at your pleasure. If you're worried about what the people dining with you think, most of the time as long as you don't make a big deal about it, they won't. If they do, they're the one being rude. A person who doesn't know you might be curious and ask why, but that's no reason for you to fret. What you do or don't drink is your choice, whatever the reason. Just an FYI though, call ahead to find out what you'll be drinking. Non-alcoholic beverages are often limited at a tapas place, so you might be drinking water.

If you have any dining questions for Dish, email us at jacksonvilledish@gmail.com

Healthy Way Cafe is the first all natural and organic, fast casual restaurant. After two years of research and studying foods, Healthy Way Cafe has put together the healthiest restaurant on the planet.

Organic foods are pure and clean and have an incredible taste because they are free from pesticides and chemicals. The menu consists of the finest organic foods available from premium, all natural and organic meats to all organic vegetables, breads, soups, juices, teas, smoothies, and ice cream desserts.

WEB TO GO

Order and pay for your to-go order online and your food will be waiting for you at the given time

Located in the St Johns Town Center and the new Healthy Way Express located inside of the Gold's Gym downtown at 109 W. Forsyth St.

www.healthywaycafe.com | St. Johns Town Center 642-2951
Downtown 798-8440 | Catering Available 400-3864

Bring this ad in to receive one free protein smoothie with the purchase of an entrée.

ghetto gourmet

artful eating at Cafe Nola by jon bosworth and cassie larue

When there is a fancy restaurant that everyone talks about and you want to try it out, there are a number of tricks to enjoy the place, get a feel for what they have to offer, and not break the bank. Cassie and I were in the mood for some fancy food that was nearby.

Downtown has a constantly growing selection of places to eat, but we are partial to the restaurants that truly embrace the metropolitan feel of our beautiful downtown. We often go to Chew for this reason. Nothing complements a great downtown evening like a succulent meal in a contemporary atmosphere. But if we wanted contemporary, why not Café Nola in the Museum for Contemporary Art Jacksonville?

Café Nola is a culinary gem in the center of our urban core. Keeping your tab under twenty at dinner can be a stretch, but you don't have to eat several plates of food to take in a pleasant dining experience, especially when the food is good. Order light and take your time. The meal is only one of the fine arts available to you at MOCA Jacksonville.

If you aren't a member of the museum and you are trying to keep your tab below twenty dollars, you may have to restrict your art viewing to those displayed in the atrium and the gift shop. But if you are an avid supporter of the arts, become a member and when you take your special someone downtown, you can impress them with your commitment to the arts and treat them to some exquisite exhibitions.

Cassie and I were in the mood for Nola, but to stay under our twenty dollar ceiling, we chose to come up in the afternoon rather than the evening. Catching a restaurant at lunch is a great way to scope out its menu, ambience, service and prices before committing to the full date. However, it did strike us as rude to try to monopolize a table during their lunch rush, so when we arrived at one in the afternoon and the place was full, we decided to take a look at some of the exhibits on display upstairs.

Cassie made a prolonged and concentrated effort not to touch the Ramen Noodle installation piece and then we took our time to savor the Contemporary Visions show which highlighted some of the more remarkable art owned by local collectors. From original Andy Warhols to some incredible Jasper Johns, this exhibit was surprisingly vital. It is hard to imagine some of these works just hanging as decoration in a private home. MOCA also pulled some treasures from its own collection to show. I enjoy how they juxtapose their Picassos with the various temporary exhibits.

By one-thirty the lunch rush was clearing out and the Nola staff was happy to seat us. We didn't come hungry, we split a bowl of soup before leaving the house, so we took our time with the menu, coordinating our sampling to get the most flavor for our limited budget. Cassie ordered the Hericot Vert Frites, which are fresh green beans that are tempura fried and served in a stainless steel cup with a horseradish aioli. This snappy appetizer was as satisfying an indulgence as French fries, but it had the spunk of a gourmet delight. I ordered the Caesar Salad. Chef Kathy Griffin's Caesar dressing was just the right balance of anchovy and lemon. Not too citrus-y, not at all fishy, and the dressing wasn't overbearing. They also garnish the salad with sliced cherry tomatoes. Although tomatoes are technically not part of a true Caesar, I am always glad when I am given some to add color and give me something juicy to much on, and these cherry tomatoes were deliciously ripe and just the perfect touch of sweet to add to the salad. Kathy also serves the salad with a tasty fried crisp instead of traditional croutons, adding the perfect amount of crunch.

We took our time savoring each bite of the two dishes, as well as our conversation, which was spurned by the art. And since our date only cost us sixteen dollars, we had enough left over to get a glass of wine to share. (Their Pinot Noir is excellent.) Some other selections from the lunch menu are their soup and salad for nine dollars (their soups are consistently spectacular). The Citrus Dill Tuna and their Flatbread du Jour are also excellent selections for under ten dollars.

Another terrific aspect of dining at Café Nola is the service. Although the servers struck us at first glance as young and hip (which often translates to condescending), they were very friendly and knowledgeable. So the atmosphere wasn't snooty or stodgy, as a museum restaurant may be tempted to become. In fact we talked at length to our waitress and ended up helping decide on the music they played in the restaurant. We tipped her half of our tab. Another great thing about keeping the bill under twenty is that you have more money to be gracious with when it comes to giving a well-deserved tip!



ingredient secret

wasabi by erin thursby

You probably know wasabi as the green play-doh-like substance which comes as a condiment for sushi. The effect of wasabi is dramatic—it clears the sinuses

instantly. The spiciness in wasabi differs in character from the typical red pepper, because it relies on different chemicals for its effect. Isothiocyanate rather than capsian is responsible for its unique flavor profile. Like mustard and standard horseradish (which are in the same family) the “heat” comes from vapors that irritate the nose more than the taste buds.

Most people haven't actually tasted the real deal. What comes to your plate might be called wasabi, but most of it is imitation. It's extremely, extremely rare to find real wasabi because it quickly loses its pungency when exposed to air for even a few minutes, so most tubed or powdered wasabis are supplemented (or even completely replaced) by a combo of mustard, regular horseradish and green food coloring. Even in Japan, where sushi was born and wasabi grows, most people eat what we eat with our sushi.

But foodies and those who want an “authentic” wasabi experience have become wise to this fakery, so there's a real interest in getting hold of the genuine article. Sites such as realwasabi.com have cropped up, so that people may buy what amounts to a foodie status symbol. Real wasabi is best fresh, so anyone who buys it in another form might not be getting the flavor they've so dearly paid for. The imitations are designed to mimic fresh wasabi, so I can't say that most of the 100% genuine wasabi powder products are worth buying.

Post sushi-craze, wasabi flavor is showing up in everything, from teas and ice creams, to the mashed potatoes in our own Murray Hill Bistro 1171. Try it at home, just mix a little of the paste with some melted butter and pour over veggies like asparagus or lima beans.

A Taste of

St. Augustine

12TH ANNUAL
“A Taste of St.
Augustine with the
Ancient City Blues
Music Festival”

Saturday, April 26,
12 noon to 9pm

St. Augustine
Amphitheatre

*Why eat at one restaurant
when you can sample the
signature dishes of 30 of
St. Augustine's finest
restaurants and enjoy a
live blues music festival?
Restaurants compete for
your vote for the People's
Choice Award.*

**\$3 admission,
taste tickets \$1 each,
sold at the event.**



All proceeds benefit EPIC Community Services, Inc.
Call (904) 829-3295 or visit
www.epiccommunityservices.org for more info.



an address worth remembering

1171 in Murray Hill by erin thursby

As I stepped into 1171, I couldn't help but feel that I'd walked into the pages of a stylish home designer magazine. They've added a dose of sophistication to the Jacksonville dining scene with this flavorful and attractive bistro.

Home-style touches, such as the aqua night-stand lamp at the end of the bar and small dining nook they call "The Living Room" makes 1171 comfortably hip. The shabby chic Living Room features a coffee table made out of an old door.

Sitting at their bar actually makes me feel cooler. I feel so Jacksonville Urban with my drink sitting on the stone bar under the drop lighting. It's fully stocked with the hard stuff, and they make a fabulous Scarlett O'Hara. Not only does it taste divine, it has a skewer of a small spiral staircase made from three progressively smaller slices of green apple, with a cherry ending the yummy cocktail spear.

Fruit in my drinks makes me happy, particularly when it's securely skewered. Elusive olives and cherries that cause me to go on a fishing expedition as I desperately try to spear them mid-drink should be banned. I'm never patient enough to wait till the end of the drink (as I ought to). When I do, it just ends up hitting me in the nose, especially after the third cocktail. 1171's Scarlett O'Hara offered me fruit I could pleasantly graze upon between imbibing. The skewer was just the right height for the glass, which meant that after nibbling off the cherry, I could place the apple-laden skewer back into the glass without the danger of losing them to the depths of the cocktail.

Perhaps you're not into cocktails as much as I am. Fear not! There are many other alcoholic beverage selections to be had. They will be revamping the wine list for spring, but I doubt the prices will change. Wines are about \$6-11 by the glass, and go for \$20-70 by the bottle. Most of what you'll find by the bottle is in the \$30 range. Standard beers by the bottle such as Bud, Corona, Mich, Miller and Heine make their list, as well as Woodchuck, Sail I.P.A and Yuengling. Before I glanced at the bar, I knew somehow that they served Stella Artois on tap, but I didn't guess that they served Tucher Weizen.

A few months into service, 1171 has its legs underneath it as a restaurant. The prices are excellent for the level of cuisine they offer. Most of the entrées are about \$18, with options to downsize the meal at a slightly lower price (ranging from \$12-\$20). The most expensive item is the filet mignon at \$30, but it's the only one that currently goes over \$20.

The bread that came out before the meal wasn't entirely to my liking. It's just a matter of preference, but I enjoy bread that's crisp on the outside and oh-so-soft on the inside. The batch I had was mostly crisp all the way through. I ended up with crumbs littering the table (my mother says I'm a messy eater, so it might not be the bread that was to blame). Maybe it was good that they were crisp, because the bowl



of balsamic and olive oil that they brought out was fairly deep. Because the balsamic sinks to the bottom, in order to experience a balsamic/oil taste, I had to plunge my bread into the bowl, getting far more oil on my bread than I generally prefer. Because the bread was mostly crispy, it didn't soak up as much of the olive oil as it normally would. So the crispiness and the bowl depth formed a rough equilibrium. Still, next time I go, I'll simply ask for a small dish instead of a bowl. Since the staff gladly accommodates the various tastes of their diners, it should be no problem.

Back in the kitchen the sous-chef is Ian Gabbe, who has cooked in some of the area's finest eateries (Pastiche, Crush) and helped to open various restaurants (he re-opened Angelos and helped establish Tastings). The head chef and part owner is Fernando Silveira, a Brazilian native with a passion for culinary experimentation. He'll have a new spring menu out soon, although he's keeping some of the favorites that they opened with.

"We want to give our customers something new when they come in, something exciting," Silveira says.

He'll be making slight modifications to some dishes, making them a little lighter for the spring. "The only way we'll change something is if we can make it taste even better," he says.

Those who have a favorite that has been banished from the menu or modified can still get the same dish that they've become addicted to (do try the escargot, if you want to be as instantly addicted as I was). Chef Fernando Silveira is happy to make a dish up if they have the ingredients on hand. He does ask that diners call ahead to be sure.

The salads run about \$6 and they are sized very well for the price. The house salad I sampled was outstanding: baby greens with gorgonzola and toasted pecans tossed with house-made raspberry vinaigrette. Salads will stay the same on the spring menu, with an added miso spinach shitake mushroom salad.

Seared ahi tuna photographs beautifully in most preparations, so it often ends up on my plate. When I took a look at the menu at 1171, I realized that there's a host of other intriguing dishes in the entrée section. The low country shrimp with saffron grits, grilled andouille and jumbo shrimp is a menu favorite that will stay during the spring. Another item that caught my eye was the butternut squash risotto with truffle oil and butter braised wild mushrooms. Each description on the menu called to me, singing siren songs of polenta, guava sauce and lemon capers (these were not all in the same dish, by the way).

I resigned myself to the tuna just the same—mostly because it's impossible to try an entire menu in one sitting. The plating of the dish wasn't all that innovative, but it was passably pretty. I tasted the tuna and the companion baby bok choy. It was not bad, but also nothing special. Then I tried the potatoes and that changed everything. Mashed potatoes as part of a seared ahi tuna dish is actually not all that standard (except to prop things up) because it generally isn't a great combination. But these potatoes were wasabi mashed potatoes, with just a little ginger thrown in for good measure. The wasabi livens up typical potatoes while the staid starch gives the wild wasabi poise.

It's hard to choose a desert at 1171, because they make their own and display the luscious lovelies in their dessert case. While certain desserts are available most of the time (strawberry cheesecake, Italian crème cake, peanut butter chocolate pie) they also have dessert specials. One of the regular desserts is the chocolate therapy, an intensely therapeutic experience (hence the name), with espresso blasting through the chocolate, making it all the richer and self-indulgent.

In case you were wondering, the bistro takes its name from its address on Edgewood Avenue. Since it just opened a few months ago, the name isn't yet well known (I've heard it called 1172, 1173 and 1971 respectively). After having a meal there, I think 1171 is an address worth remembering.

1171 Edgewood Ave (in Jacksonville's Murray Hill neighborhood) (904) 384-3160





Strawberry Lemon Tarts from Turtle Island Natural Foods

healthy on the go!

Fast food gets a bad rap. Not everything that's fixed quickly is laden with saturated fat and unnatural preservatives. Here are some of the local places where you can pick up a quick bite and know that you're getting a healthy meal or snack. **by erin thursby**

healthy way

Organic fast food might not be an entirely new concept on the West coast but it's still a fairly fresh idea here in Florida. At the **Healthy Way Cafe**(10281 Midtown Parkway 904 642-2951) in the St. Johns Town Center and the newest location inside the Gold's Gym downtown (109 W. Forsyth St.) you'll find an emphasis on organics and simple recipes. Though they have sauces on hand to pump up the flavor of their wraps, you'll find that they aren't necessary. When the basic ingredients are this good—why cover it up? The majority of the menu features items that most of us are used to eating: wraps and salads. Taste something as simple and straight forward as a Chicken Caesar wrap and you'll get to experience how dramatically using organic ingredients can boost the taste of a simple meal. The café's patrons range from health conscious weight lifters to moms looking for a healthy meal for themselves and their toddlers or vegetarians looking for a place that respects their needs. Ever had an organic banana? Until I plunged a fork into Healthy Way's fruit salad I never had. It was so full of life and flavor that regular bananas will be forever ruined for me. Salmon-lovers simply must try the Healthy Way Wrap, a delicious combination of wild salmon, organic romaine, lettuce, tomatoes and spouts.

You can also take advantage of their web to go. Just go to their website, healthywaycafe.com, where you can order and pay for your food online then receive a time for pick up and the food will be waiting for you.

native sun market

Native Sun, is of course, my hands-down favorite source of organic and natural produce. The location in Mandarin (10000 San Jose Boulevard 904-260-6950) is smaller than the huge place they've got at Baymeadows and 9A (11030 Baymeadows Rd 904-519-2997), so if you haven't gone down to take a gander at their newer locale, it might be time to do so. Both Native Suns in the area have a good deli, but the one at Baymeadows and 9A is fantastic, proving that healthy food can sometimes be more delectable than the stuff that's bad for you. Every item is made fresh in the store by the Native Sun staff using only all-natural and organic ingredients to ensure their foods are as healthy as they are delicious. Most people take their food to-go, but there is a sit-down area at the front of the store. If you're on your way home and looking to feed your family, head to the hot bar section and pick up one of their rotisserie chickens.

While you can feed an army with their organic goodness, I like to go there to pick up lunch for myself. I adore their wraps and their rye berry and raisin salad. They've introduced new health friendly "burst" sandwiches that are small, compact and come with the same amount of fillings as their regular wraps and fresh made to order sandwiches like Ruebens, clubs, melts and more - including quesadillas! Sometimes I pick up something from their bakery for later, such as zucchini or banana date muffins. There are single servings of desserts available, so you can make sure you don't gorge on their carrot cake or delish raspberry bars.

turtle island natural foods

Turtle Island Natural Foods (363 Atlantic Blvd. Atlantic Beach 904-247-6400) is a favorite to-go place for health conscious beachgoers. It's a small health food and organic market, but it buzzes with folks at lunchtime, ordering from their deli case. They serve fabulous sandwiches with creative names, all of which seem to come from songs. There's Blue Sky, made with roast beef and boursin-style cheese with lettuce tomato and onion on sourdough bread. Also a favorite is Whole Lotta Love, made with fresh veggies, avocado, apple and almonds with sharp cheddar and Dijon mustard on organic whole wheat bread. My personal favorite is the Mayport shrimp salad sandwich: Come Sail Away. Patrons range from workers in on Atlantic Boulevard that want a quick, healthy and tasty lunch to old hippies, the body conscious and the earth conscious. Vegetarians and vegans have their own separate case, so if meat turns your stomach, you won't have to look at it as you try to make your selection. Similarly, if you're avoiding meat, it's convenient to have those selections in a separate case. If you're into the sweeter things in life, do not miss their dessert case. It's always changing. From strawberry lemon tarts to chocolate decadence, their desserts not only look fabulous, they also taste fabulous.

the manatee café

In St. Augustine, you can find **The Manatee Café** (525 S.R. 16 #106 Westgate Plaza, St. Augustine 904-826-0210), a favorite spot for vegetarians and the otherwise health conscious in the area. They serve a Veggie bugger, Veggie omelet and tofu chili, among other tasty selections on their menu. Breakfast is very popular. Besides the omelets, you can also get a waffle made with Spelt flour, get a breakfast burrito or scrambled tofu. Lots of people get health conscious food to go here, but they have a large sit down area. Café patrons range from tourists hungry for healthy stuff to local vegetarians who are regulars. Think of it as a healthy diner. There is also a very small market, but the emphasis is on the food area.

family events



April 3 **Jacksonville Suns Opening Day** The Suns open the 2008 campaign against the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville at 7:05pm. Well-known weekly promotions will return this year, including Fifty Cent Family Feast Tuesdays, numerous Businessperson Special day games on Wednesdays, the very popular Thursday Night Throwdowns and Friday Family Fireworks. Every Sunday home game will feature a giveaway just for children and Kids Run the Bases after the game. Tickets for all 70 home games are currently on sale through the Suns Box Office at (904) 358-2846, or online at www.jaxsuns.com.

April 3 to April 12 **Clay County Fair** It's time once again for the Clay County Fair! This year's festivities include daily entertainment (including a performance by American Idol's Phil Stacey), fascinating exhibits, and fun shows such as Rosaire's Royal Pig Races and Disc-Connect k9's Frisbee Show Dogs. Clay County Fair Ground, Info: claycounty-fair.org

April 7 **The Jacksonville Children's Chorus Auditions** The Jacksonville Children's Chorus is holding fall semester auditions for children grades 2-12. Brentwood Elementary School, 3750 Springfield Blvd., 6-7 pm, Info: (904) 346-1636.

April 9- 10 am and 12 pm **Tom Sawyer** A play based on the classic story by Mark Twain, young Tom Sawyer and his buddy Huckleberry Finn go on countless adventures from simply whitewashing a fence to hunting for gold to attending their own funerals. The mischievous twosome have a lot of fun but also learn important lessons along the way. Tickets: \$7. Lazzara Performance Hall, UNF Fine Arts Center, Info: (904) 353-3500 or theatre-worksjax.com

April 10 to April 13 **Disney On Ice: Princess Wishes** Your child's favorite Disney Princesses leap from the stories and onto the ice during this magical show hosted by everyone's favorite mischievous pixie Tinker Bell. Tickets: \$7.50-\$47. Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, Info: (904) 630-3998

April 12- 10:30 am **Just Tri It!** Yep, a triathlon just for kids! Children ages 6-12 will swim, bike and run (age appropriate distances, of course) all to benefit the Children's Museum of St. Johns. Registration fee: \$20. St. Augustine Family YMCA, 500 Pope Road, Info: www.firstcoastymca.org/staugustine

April 13 and April 16 **Arthur Live!** Marc Brown's award-winning book series and television show

takes to the stage this spring. Arthur, DW, Buster, Brain and Francine will all be there to teach kids the importance of teamwork and being a kid through funny stories and toe-tapping tunes. St Augustine Amphitheatre (April 13) and the Florida Theatre (April 16), Info: (904) 471-1965 (St. Augustine Amphitheatre) or (904) 355-2787

April 20- 3 pm, April 21- 9:30 am and 11:30 am **A Year with Frog and Toad** Arnold Lobel's award-winning children's book leaps off the page and onto the stage in this Tony Award-nominated musical. Tickets: \$5 (school matinee only)-\$18. University of North Florida- Lazzara Theater, Info: (904) 620-1898

April 24- 10 am and 12 pm **Fish Face** Fish Face, a book in two-time Newbery Honor-winning author Patricia Reilly Giff's series Kids of the Polk Street School, comes to life in this musical tale of new kids, missing unicorns and one girl's quest for perfection. Through charming characters and a sweet story, kids will learn about honesty, true friendship and growing up. Tickets: \$7. Florida Theatre, Info: (904) 353-3500 or theatreworksjax.com

April 24- 7:30 pm **Russian American Kids Circus** Kids as young as six perform daring feats at the Russian American Kids Circus. This professional circus has been wowing audiences for 12 years with their acrobatics, tightrope walking, unicycling, juggling and balancing acts, all by children ages 6 to 16. Tickets: \$12.50-\$20. Florida Theatre, Info: (904) 355-2787

April 26 **The Beaches Sandcastle Contest** Bring the entire family out to the beach to watch some of the most talented sandcastle builders do their thing at the Jacksonville Beach Sandcastle Contest. The unique event will take place on the beach in front of the Sea Walk Pavilion. Info: (904) 249-3972

April 26 **Demolition Derby** The Demolition Derby is a sell out event every year, so get your tickets now. The derby is held each spring with about 40 drivers participating including celebrity drivers. Jacksonville Equestrian Center, Info: (904) 727-3443 or rwilson@builderscare.org or ticketmaster for tickets.

April 27- 2 pm **Annual Beaches Parade** The family won't want to miss this Jacksonville Beach tradition. This year's parade will feature a variety of floats, entertainment, and guaranteed fun! Downtown Jacksonville Beach, Info: (904) 247-6236



cool camps for cool kids

the hip parents' guide to area summer camps by **kellie abrahamson**

Summer is right around the corner and many parents are already looking for ways to keep their children entertained during those long, hot months. For those of us who can't afford to take a two month sabbatical from our cubicles, summer camp is definitely an option. EU has once again taken all the guesswork out of finding the perfect summer camp for your kids. We've tracked down the coolest camps in (and out of) town and compiled them into an easy-to-navigate guide. All you have to do is figure out the best fit for your kid. Whether their destined for the stage (think Camp Broadway), rock superstardom (Rock Camp) or even the moon (2008 Space Explorers Camp), there's a summer program perfect for your child. Because all of these camps will fill up fast, we recommend registering as soon as possible to ensure your little camper gets a spot. Good luck and happy camping!

educational

Jacksonville Zoo Summer Camp

Location: Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, 370 Zoo Parkway
About: Activities include meeting zookeepers, animal encounters, lessons on wildlife and conservation, games, crafts and more. Campers must bring lunch and snack. Optional Thursday night sleep-over for 3rd to 8th grade campers.

Ages: Grades Kindergarten to 8
Dates: One week sessions beginning June 9, June 16, June 23, July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28 or August 4
Cost: \$150/week for members; \$175/week for non-members. Overnight fee- \$30/members and \$35/non-members (includes dinner and breakfast).
Contact/More Info: (904) 757-4463 or www.jaxzoo.org

Osprey EcoCamp

Location: UNF, 4567 St Johns Bluff
About: Activities at this outdoor camp include hiking, games, swimming, canoeing and exploring the natural habitats on UNF property. Field trips are taken each week to locations like Little Talbot Island, Metro Park, Suns baseball game, bowling and

more. Campers must bring lunch and a water bottle each day.
Ages: Grades 3 to 5
Dates: June 9 - August 1
Cost: \$225/week or \$210/week for UNF staff, students, military, or siblings (includes EcoCamp T-shirt, water bottle, field trip fees, before and aftercare, snacks, drinks, and most activity supplies)
Contact/More Info: (904) 620-1810 or www.unf.edu

2008 Space Explorers Camp

Location: Kirby Smith Middle, 2034 Hubbard St.
About: Campers will discover the wonders of space aboard Challenger Learning Center's spacecraft and Mission Control simulators. Activities include hands-on experiences in rock-etry, robotics and more.
Ages: Grades 4 to 6
Dates: June 16 - June 20 or June 23 - June 27 (registration deadline- April 25)
Cost: \$200/week
Contact/More Info: (904) 630-6601 or www.duvalschools.org

FCCJ Personal Finance Camp for Teens

Location: FCCJ Urban Resource Center, 601 W. State St.
About: A four-day program for students interested in learn-

ing about personal finance or considering a financial services career. Developed by the FCCJ Institute for Financial Studies and taught by financial professionals, the program covers financial planning concepts, budgeting, credit management, basic investment terminology, and investment strategies.
Ages: 14 to 18
Dates: June 23 - June 26
Cost: No charge (\$100 value)
Contact/More Info: Email Melissa Chandler at machand@fccj.edu or (904) 361-6261

SkyQuest Flight Camp for Teens

Location: Avia Aero Services, 4601 E Hwy 100, Suite I-2, Palm Coast
About: Unique program designed to challenge teenagers through meaningful, hands-on aviation activities that both educate and entertain. Campers will learn to work together to plan and execute realistic flight missions in both a simulator and an actual aircraft. No prior flying experience needed. All sessions are conducted under the careful supervision of a FAA flight instructor.
Ages: 12 to 16
Dates: June 23 - June 27
Cost: \$399 (includes all materials)

Contact/More Info: (904) 505-5185 or www.aviaaero.com

She's on the Money! Economic Literacy Camp

Location: JU, 2800 University Blvd. N

About: Designed to help girls understand the power of money and to be smart consumers. Activities include several field trips, daily swims and interactive games that will encourage math skills as well as aid campers in independent adult life.

Ages: 12 to 14

Dates: June 30 - July 2

Cost: \$75

Contact/More Info: (904) 731-9933 or www.girlsincjax.org

UNF Physics Summer Institute

Location: University of North Florida Campus

About: In this special 2-week workshop students will learn physics words, concepts, principles, and how to gain skill in solving physics problems. The mornings will focus on problem solving in these areas with the students working in teams to solve a good number of the problems in the book with coaching from the instructor, while the afternoons will be laboratory experiments that reinforce learning. Believe it or not, this is someone's idea of fun.

Ages: High School

Dates: June 16-27

Cost: \$599

Contact/More info: 620-4200 or unfce@unf.edu or www.ce.unf.edu/testprep.html

Unusual Sciences Camp

Location: EcoEd Resources Science Center, 10584 Old St. Augustine Rd.

About: Campers will experiment with and experience food science, magic science, superhero science and more.

Ages: 6 to 12

Dates: July 30 - August 3 and August 13 - August 17

Cost: \$19/session (includes all materials, instructor, lunch, drinks and take-home activity)
Contact/More Info: (904) 268-0610 or www.ecoedresources.com

general fine arts

Dolphin Fine Arts Camp

Location: JU, 2800 University Blvd. N

About: Campers will have classes in art, music and theater. In addition to singing, dancing and acting, participants will be offered a variety of activities, including swimming and playing games. Campers will also take part in live performances and art exhibitions at the end of each week.

Ages: 6 to 16

Dates: July 7- July 11 ("Circus, Circus" theme), July 14 - July 18 ("Jungle Fever" theme)

Cost: Day camp- \$260/one week, \$494/two weeks (includes a t-shirt, lunch, classes and activities). Overnight camp- \$425/one week, \$810/two weeks (includes classes, a dorm room on JU's campus with double occupancy and full-time supervision, three meals a day, access to all JU's facilities and weekend and evening outings and activities)
Contact/More Info: (904) 256-7398 or <http://arts.ju.edu>

dance

The Florida Ballet Summer Intensive

Location: The Florida Ballet, 300 East State St., Suite E

About: This 6-week comprehensive course is for the dedicated dance student- entrance is by audition only. The curriculum features ballet technique classes, beginning with twice a week for the elementary level, gradually increasing to the daily study of the advanced level.

Ages: 8 and up

Dates: June 23 - August 2

Contact/More Info: (904) 353-7518

JU Department of Dance Summer Intensive

Location: Jacksonville University Campus, 2800 University Blvd North

About: Two Weeks of training for the professional and pre-professional of intermediate/advanced students ages 10 and up. Classes will be taught by an outstanding faculty in all forms of dance. Planned weekend activities include a visit to Cummer Art Museum and Hannah Park in Atlantic Beach for a beach cookout.

Ages: 10 and up

Dates: July 21 - August 1, 2008

Cost: \$550.00 for two weeks, 300.00 for one week, Residential Tuition: \$1,550.00 for two weeks, \$825.00 for single weeks
Contact/More info: Web: 904.256.7398 or www.ju.edu or ccoble@ju.edu

visual arts

Camp Cummer

Location: Cummer Museum, 801 Riverside Ave.

About: Activities include drawing, painting, working with clay, and exploring the galleries and gardens. You may sign your child up for one week-long session only. Space is limited for each session.

Ages: Entering 1 to 6 grades

Dates: June 9 - July 25

Cost: \$175/members, \$200/non-

members

Contact/More Info: (904) 355-0630

artcamp@MOCA

Location: Museum of Contemporary Art, 333 Laura St. N

About: Activities include creative art-making, exploration of art history, tours of the Museum's collection, literacy, and creative movement. Museum educators and certified local art educators provide quality instruction in a wide variety of subjects and media. Space is limited.

Ages: 6 to 12

Dates: June 16 - August 8 (Independence Day week off).

Cost: \$175/session for members, \$200/session for non-members

Contact/More Info: Email Kelly Eason at keason@mocajacksonville.org, (904) 366-6911 ext. 207, or www.mocajacksonville.org

Digital Photography Camp

Location: Mandarin Middle School, 5100 Hood Rd.

About: Campers will explore general digital photography, specialized Ultra Violet photography, and will learn to use popular digital editing software including Adobe Photoshop. Enough digital cameras will be provided so that students may work in small groups. Purchase of a digital camera is NOT required for this camp. Students bringing their own camera do so at their own risk. Campers need to bring a lunch Monday-Thursday.

Ages: 11 to 14

Dates: June 23 - 27 and July 21 - 25

Cost: \$125/session

Contact/More Info: (904) 292-0555

Arts and Sciences at The Cummer Camp

Location: Cummer Museum, 801 Riverside Ave.

About: This unique camp will explore the artistic role in the world of medicine and the medicinal components of the world of art. Includes a field trip to the Mayo Clinic.

Ages: Grades 8 to 12

Dates: July 7 - July 11

Cost: \$175/members, \$200/non-members

Contact/More Info: (904) 355-0630

theater

Limelight Theater Summer Camps

Location: Limelight Theatre, 11 Old Mission Ave., uptown St. Augustine

About: The Limelight will offer

(continued on page 20)



ST. JOHNS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

DAY CAMP - GRADES K-8

Swimming ♦ Arts & Crafts ♦ Team Sports ♦ Computers
Games ♦ Excursions ♦ Special Events

Three Two-week and One One-week Sessions

June 16 - August 1 ♦ 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

\$240 per two-week session - \$120 per one-week session

All activities and excursions included

Before and after camp care available

ADVENTURE CAMPS ALSO OFFERED

Karate ♦ Rocketry ♦ Fishing ♦ Art ♦ Gymnastics
Basketball ♦ Soccer ♦ Baseball ♦ Football ♦ Volleyball
Swimming ♦ Computer ♦ Music ♦ Theatre



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NORTHEAST FLORIDA'S PREMIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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For Rising 1st-12th Graders.

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- * Eagle Arts Camps (grades 1-12)
- * Sports Camps (grades 1-12)
- * Special Programs (grades 6-12)
- * Bridges Orientation Camp (grades 6-12)

All students are welcome. Sessions starting May 27 - August 8, 2008. For enrollment information visit the "Episcopal Summer Programs" section of episcopalhigh.org or call 904.396.5751 and we'll mail you the Episcopal Summer enrollment brochure.



EPISCOPAL
HIGH SCHOOL
of JACKSONVILLE

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Spring Break Drama Camp, ages 8-12, Summer Production Camp, grades 5-8 which will perform "Once on This Island Jr." on July 10, 11 and 12 and Let's Pretend Mini Camp for grades K-2nd, limited to 12 students.

Ages: Age 8 through grade 8.
Dates: Spring Break Camp April 21-25, Summer Production Camp June 16-July 11 and Lets Pretend July 21-25.
Contact/More info: 825-1164 or limelight-theatre.org

Camp Broadway

Location: FCCJ South Campus, 11901 Beach Blvd.

About: Workshops in singing, dancing and acting. Campers work together to perform ensemble pieces at the finale on Friday. Camp taught by Broadway theater professionals from New York.

Ages: 10 to 17

Dates: June 16 - June 20

Cost: \$475 (lunch provided)

Contact/More Info: 632-3015 or www.artistseries.fccj.org

BeaTPAC 2008- Bartram Trail Performing Arts Camp

Location: Bartram Trail High School, 7399 Longleaf Pine Parkway, St. Johns

About: Camp activities include dance, musical theater, acting, storytelling, art, scenery design, hip-hop, Shakespeare, yoga, a talent show, theater games and much more.

Ages: 6 to 14

Dates: July 7 - July 11 and July 14 - July 18. Performance Showcase- July 18

Contact/More Info: Email beatpaccamp@yahoo.com or (904) 287-6767, ext.22574

music

Rock Camp

Location: The Music Studio, 5150 Palm Valley Rd., Ponte Vedra Beach

About: Musicians of similar age, interests and abilities will be matched and taught how to play as a band. The bands receive one week of intensive group and individual lessons. At the end of the week, campers will professionally record two songs.

Ages: 10 and up (no beginners)

Dates: June 23 through July

Cost: \$350/week

Contact/More Info: 280-3278 or www.themusicstudio.org

sports

EPIC Sessions Wakeboard Camp

Location: Multiple locations

About: Activities include wakeboarding, wake skating, tubing, wake surfing, water skiing, knee boarding, and Thursday family nights. Lunch is included for full day program.

Ages: 6 and up

Dates: May 10 - Aug 25

Cost: \$310/week for half-day program, \$565/week for full-day program

Contact/More Info: (904) 254-0443 or www.epicsession-scamp.com

EPIC Surf Ministries summer camp

Location: 705 2nd Ave. N, Jacksonville Beach

About: Surfers of any experience level are welcome. Soft-top surfboards are provided for those who need them.

Ages: 7 to 17 for day camps and 11 to 18 for overnight camp

Dates: Day camps- June 9

- June 13, June 23 - June 27, July 7 - July 11, July 14 - July 18 and July 28 - August 1. Overnight camps- June 16 - June 20 and July 21- July 25

Cost: \$160/week for day camp,

\$340/ week for overnight camp.

Afternoon wakeboarding option is additional \$299/camper

Contact/More Info: 249-1201 or www.epicssurfministries.com

Hanna Park Jr. Lifeguard Camp

Location: Hanna Park, 500 Wonderwood Dr., Atlantic Beach

About: Campers will learn oceanography and ocean rescue techniques. Activities include paddle boarding, kayaking, beach flags, mind teasers and volleyball. All participants must swim 100 yards in under three minutes; go under water for approximately 10 yards and tread water (no hands) for two minutes.

Ages: 12 to 15

Dates: June 16 - June 27, June 30 - July 11 (no camp on July 4), and July 14 - July 25

Cost: \$150/2-week session. Extended day is \$25.

Contact/More Info: (904) 270-1560 or www.coj.net

Skatelab Skateboard Camp

Location: Skatelab, 16 West 3rd St., Atlantic Beach

About: Activities include personal instruction from experienced skaters and a waterslide every Wednesday. Campers should bring bathing suit and towel on Wednesday and money for extra drinks and snacks. Lunch is included. Every camper will receive a Skatelab t-shirt and camp pack with group photo. Skatelab is closed to the public during exclusive camp hours.

Ages: 8 and up

Dates: June 9 - Aug 15

Cost: \$200/week for members, \$235/ week for non-members.

Skatelab offers multiple camp rates of \$150 for 4 or more weeks and \$125 for 8 or more weeks.

Contact/More Info: (904) 249-2529 or www.skatelab.com

Reggie Nelson Football Camp

Location: Jacksonville University, 2800 University Blvd. N

About: Demonstrations and lectures with Reggie or another Jaguar. Activities include drill, full practice, autograph session and more. Instruction is given by current and former NFL player and coaches. Overnight and commuter options are available. Enrollment is limited.

Ages: 7 to 18

Dates: June 13 - June 17

Cost: \$729/overnight camp, \$619/commuter camper (sign up early for payment plans)
Contact/More Info: (904) 256-8000

2008 FCCJ Summer Volleyball Camps

Location: FCCJ Gym, South Campus Sports Center, 11901 Beach Blvd.

About: The FCCJ Summer Volleyball Camps with Head Coach Mary Andrew have been in operation since 1989 and have provided top quality instruction to more than 3,000 players. The emphasis at FCCJ is on quality instruction and playing enjoyment. The camps are designed to meet the needs of many age groups and skill levels. Pick the one best for your camper. All campers receive a free t-shirt.

Ages: From Pee Wee beginning at age 5 to Varsity players up to

age 18.

Dates: Various sessions beginning July 10 and ending July 25

Cost: \$35 - \$125 for various sessions

Contact/More info: 646-2202 or 646-2203 or fccj.edu/athletics/camp_vball-w

JJVA 2008 Summer Volleyball Camps

Locations: Providence High School, Jacksonville Indoor Sports, Eagles View High School and FCCJ South Campus

About: Jacksonville Junior Volleyball Association will offer general as well as specialized volleyball skills camps this summer. The JJVA staff consists of specialists in training youth, junior high, high school and elite level athletes.

Ages: 10-18

Dates: 1 hour clinics, 3 and 5

day sessions throughout June and July

Cost: \$20/1 hour clinics, \$95-\$165 for various sessions

Contact/More info: 625-2511 or jjva.com or email info@jjva.com

Challenger British Soccer Camp

Location: Losco Park, 10851 Hood Rd.

About: Camp highlights include a professional British coaching staff, individual skill development, and daily World Cup style tournaments. Campers should bring shin guards, sunscreen and plenty of water. Campers receive a free ball, free t-shirt, and a bonus end-of-camp gift. Early online sign-ups also receive free \$30 jersey.

Ages: 4 and up

Dates: June 23 - June 27

Cost: \$78/ages 4 to 5, \$105/ages 6 to 18

Contact/More Info: Email spappa@bellsouth.net, (904) 465-3492 or www.challengersports.com

general camps

Episcopal High School Summer Programs

Location: Episcopal High School, 4455 Atlantic Blvd.

About: Episcopal High School offers an extensive selection of academic classes including subjects like Ceramics, Electronic Publishing, Photography, Theology and Speech as well as Math

and English. They also offer a wide selection of sport and art camps as well as bridge camps that help students prepare for the upcoming school year with skills like time management, test-taking and writing.

Ages: grades 1-12

Dates: Various sessions beginning June 9 through Aug. 8.

Cost: \$120 - \$500

Contact/More info: 396-5751 or episcopalhigh.org or email summer@episcopalhigh.org

St. Johns Country Day School Summer Camp

Location: 3100 Doctors Lake Drive, Orange Park

About: St. Johns Country Day School sponsors two and one week sessions of Day Camp.

In addition, students may participate in a variety of adventure camps, including "Science Sampler," "Out to Launch" (rocketry), "Creative Art," soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis, fishing, gymnastics, karate, theater, and Jazz Band, to name a few. St. Johns also offers academic programs to help prepare students for the coming year. Frequent excursions to nearby "fun spots" add still more fun.

Ages: 5-13

Dates: two week sessions beginning June 8 through Aug 1.

Cost: \$150 - \$240 per session

Contact/More info: Before June 16 - 264-9572, After June 15 - 264-2619 or sjcds.net

Seven Week Summer Camp

Location: Neptune Beach Elementary, 1515 Florida Blvd., Neptune Beach

About: Activities include swimming at Fletcher High School, science and explorations, reading, group sports, arts & crafts, music, movement and rhythmic activities, a camp carnival, magic show, movie day and more.

Ages: Age 5 (by May 1st, 2008) to Grade 3

Dates: June 16 – August 1 (no camp on July 4)

Cost: \$840 (includes t-shirt, swimming, field trips, camp cook out, camp carnival, and any other enrichment programs at camp)

Contact/More Info: (904) 247-5957 or www.dreamsbeginhere.org/nbe

JJVA Volleyball Camps

Jacksonville Junior Volleyball Association



The All Skills Camp \$165
Players will learn and train in all skills of the game.
Jacksonville Indoor Sports June 23- 25 9am-4pm
Prodidence HS July 7-9 9am-4pm/4pm-8pm
FCCJ South July 28-30 9am-4pm
Eagles View HS August 4-6 3pm-6pm

Attack/Serve & Pass Camp \$95
Emphasis will be on these three skills only.
Providence HS June 9-11 & June 19-21 3pm-6pm
Eagles View HS June 23-25 6pm-9pm
FCCJ South July 14-16 6pm-9pm

Setters Camp \$95
Emphasis will be on setting skills only.
Providence HS June 12-14 6pm-9pm
FCCJ South July 14-16 6pm-9pm

Libero/Defense Camp \$95
Emphasis will be on back row defensive skills only.
Providence HS June 16-18 3pm-6pm
FCCJ South July 14-16 6pm-9pm

1 Hour Clinics \$20
Providence HS Tuesday & Thursday Nights
June & July 4-5pm & 5-6pm

For Camp Applications visit
www.jjva.com | 625-2511 | info@jjva.com

19th Annual FCCJ Volleyball Camps

with Head Coach Mary Andrew



JUNIOR HIGH/JV CAMP
July 14-16 · July 17-19
for players grades 5-9
9am-4pm
\$105 per camper

Pee Wee & Little Spikes
Ages 5-10 · July 10 & 11 · 9am-noon
Teaches basic movement and volleyball skills
\$65 per player

VARSITY & JV TEAM CAMPS
Team Camp Sessions · July 22-24 · 9am-5pm
\$105 with team of 6 players
\$125 as an individual player
This camp is designed to teach skills, team strategy, and team dynamics through team drills and competition

POSITIONAL SPECIALTY CAMP
Varsity Players (Ages 15-18 only)
July 21 or 25 · 1pm-4pm · \$35 per day
JH & JV Players (Ages 12-15 only)
July 21 or 25 · 9am-noon · \$35 per day
**Players can attend both days for \$65*
Players are taught the special skills in one of the following positions: Middle Blocker, D/S & Libero, or Outside Hitter. Players must designate a position.

Call For Information 646-2202 or 646-2203
www.fccj.edu/athletics/camp_vball-w

SUMMER CAMPS AT THE LIMELIGHT!

SPRING BREAK DRAMA CAMP
Ages 8-12, 9:00am-12:00pm, April 21st-25th. Registration is now through April 16th.

SUMMER PRODUCTION CAMP
June 16th-July 11th, M-F 9:00am-3:00pm, for students in grades 5-8. This year's show will be "Once on This Island Jr." Camp concludes with performances on July 10th, 11th, and 12th.

LET'S PRETEND MINI CAMP
K-2nd, July 21st-25, M, W, F 10:00am-12:00pm
*class limited to 12 students.

CALL THE BOX OFFICE OR CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION
904.825.1164 . www.Limelight-Theatre.org



THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE PRESENTS THE

JACKSONVILLE Jazz Festival 2008

Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition
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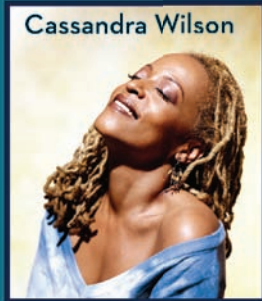
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Bring your instrument for a jazz jam session like no other.

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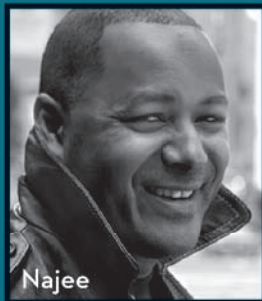
Dave Koz



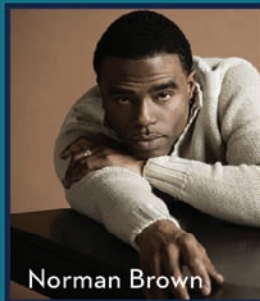
Poncho Sanchez
Latin Jazz Band



Najee



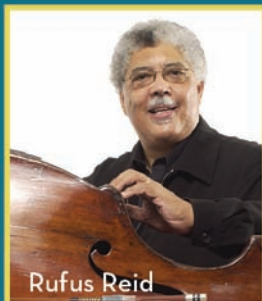
Norman Brown



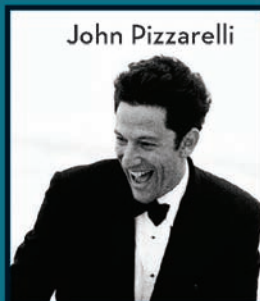
Lynne Arriale



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APRIL 10



**TAMMERLIN
WITH MARY LOU**
APRIL 17

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APRIL 24

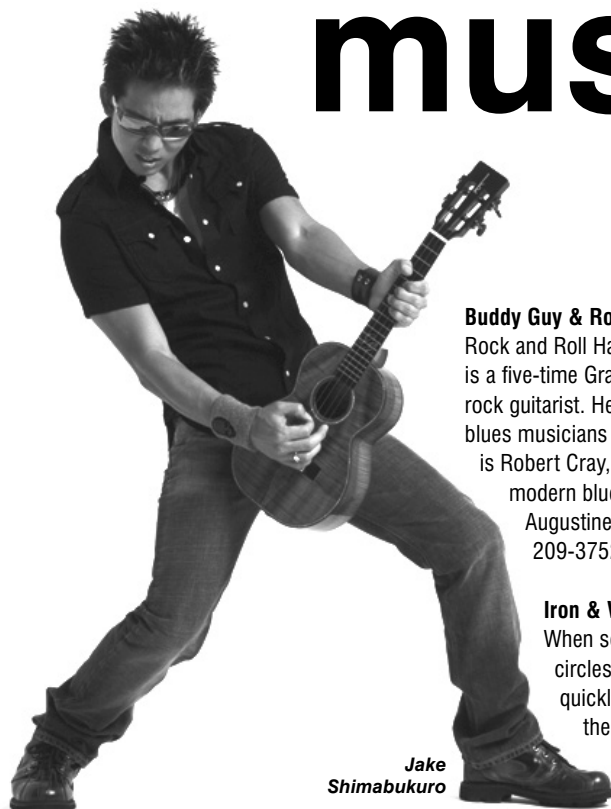


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Jake
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George Strait with Miranda Lambert

George Strait's latest album, *It Just Comes Natural*, marks his 25th anniversary as a recording artist and coincides with the announcement that he is the most recent addition to the Country Music Hall of Fame. The legendary Texas troubadour is sure to bring the house down with his long list of country hits. Tickets: \$54.50-\$64.50. Jacksonville Arena, (904) 353-3309 (April 6)

Tab Benoit

One of the premiere roots stylist of the century, Tab has paid his dues as a road troubadour, playing 250 nights a year, performing at venues across North America, honing his guitar chops and becoming part of Louisiana folklore and legend. Mojos Blues Bar, Jacksonville Beach, 10 pm. (904) 247-6636 (April 11)

Buddy Guy & Robert Cray

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Buddy Guy is a five-time Grammy award winning blues and rock guitarist. He is one of the most respected blues musicians of all time. Performing with Guy is Robert Cray, who is known for his soothing modern blues sound. Tickets are \$30-40. St. Augustine Amphitheatre -7:30 pm, (904) 209-3752 (April 12)

Iron & Wine

When soft became the new loud in indie circles a few years ago, Iron & Wine quickly stepped ahead of the pack as the most arresting of the whispery new-folk artists. Sam Beam, the man behind The Wine, makes morose and mysterious music, with impressively layered harmonies and the barest instrumentation. Tickets: \$22/advance, \$24/day of show. Freebird Live, (904) 246-2473 (April 13)

Rush: Snakes and Arrows tour

Canada has given us many great things and one of those is rock royalty Rush. As a group, the band possesses 24 gold records and 14 platinum (3 multi-platinum) records. These statistics place Rush fifth behind The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Kiss and Aerosmith for the most consecutive gold and platinum albums by a rock band. Tickets: \$45-\$75. Jacksonville Arena, (904) 353-3309 (April 17)

Jake Shimabukuro with Futureman

Jake Shimabukuro, one of the world's top ukulele musicians, is renowned for lightning-fast fingers

and revolutionary playing techniques. He teams up with Futureman, percussionist and member of the jazz quartet Béla Fleck. Maybe Futureman will play his Drumitar or his newest electronic instrument called the RoyEI, based on the Periodic Table of Elements and the Golden Ratio. Florida Theatre, (904) 355-2787 (April 17)

Martina McBride: Waking Up Laughing tour

Despite racking up 16 million in sales, 22 top 10 singles, numerous CMA and ACM awards and a slew of national television appearances in her illustrious 15-year career, Martina McBride continues to scale new artistic heights. Producer, writer, and country music icon, McBride is a true Renaissance woman who commands not only the stage but every facet of her career. Tickets: \$48.75-\$58.75. Jacksonville Arena, (904) 353-3309 (April 19)

Andre Rieu

Dutch violinist, conductor and composer Andre Rieu has set himself apart from other entertainers due to his melodramatic stage presence and rock star-like persona. Dubbed "The King of Waltz," Rieu has won fans of all ages and nationalities with his innovative and highly successful entertainment formula. Tickets: \$50-\$75. Jacksonville Arena, (904) 353-3309 (April 25)

Sheryl Crow

Sheryl Crow's fresh, updated spin on classic roots rock have made her one of the most popular mainstream rockers today. Crow's sunny, good-time rockers and world-weary ballads are radio staples and perennial favorites at Grammy time. Times-Union Center, (904) 633-6110 (April 27)

Charlie Musselwhite
\$18 We, Apr 23rd

\$5 Tue, Apr 22nd **EYC benefit show**

\$10 Sat, Apr 26th **Tapes N Tapes**

\$10 Fri, May 16th **Peter Mulvey**

\$20 Sa, May 31st **David Wilcox/Pierce Pettis**

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SPECIALS

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April 1
JU's Percussion Ensemble Terry Concert Hall,
(904) 256-7345
Bump Jack Rabbits, (904) 398-7496

April 3
Ritz Chamber Players: Spring Concert Times-
Union Center, (904) 353-3900
Red / Echoes Through Chaos / Cinder Road Jack
Rabbits, (904) 398-7496
Korby Lenker European Street Listening Room,
(904) 399-1740
Jake Smith Fuel Coffeehouse, (904) 425-FUEL
Lewis Vaughn 9th & Main, (904) 353-6002

April 4
Caribbean Moonlight Friday Musicale, (904) 355-
7584
Rodney Carrington Times-Union Center, (904)
353-3900
Black Eyed Soul / Old Man Jenkins Jack Rabbits,
(904) 398-7496
The Young Bucks Victory Records Tour:
Secret Lives of the Free Masons / Harloe Fuel
Coffeehouse, (904) 425-FUEL
Limb from Limb / Brave in the Attempt / Blue
Skies for Dead Eyes / Dawn of Plague The Pit,
(904) 223-9850
Skif Dank / General TSO's Fury 9th & Main, (904)
353-6002
Lazerstar / Can Can TSI, (904) 424-3531

April 4 and April 5
Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra: Rockapella
Times-Union Center, (904) 353-3900

April 4 to April 6
18th Annual Springing the Blues Sea Walk Pavilion,
(904) 249-3972
After Springing the Blues Celebrity Jam featuring
Shane Dwight Mojos Blues Bar, Jacksonville
Beach, (904) 247- 6636

April 5
East Village Opera Company Florida Theatre,
(904) 355-2787
Wherefore / Parade the City / Formatta / Another
Reason to Breathe Murray Hill Theatre, (904) 388-
7807
Gettendeep The Pit, (904) 223-9850
Since Always / Maradona Fuel Coffeehouse, (904)
425-FUEL
Edision Project / Baumer Jack Rabbits, (904)
398-7496
Funk Fest 2008 Metropolitan Park, (904) 630-3900
The Soulful One / Patric Robinson Genesis Café,
(904) 448-8434

April 6
Stephen Robinson Thrasher-Horne Center, (904)
276-6750
Femme Fatality / Life Ruiner / xThick as Bloodx
/ Battle / A Well Thought Tragedy The Pit, (904)
223-9850
School Boy Humor / Say No More / A Heartwell
Ending Jack Rabbits, (904) 398-7496
George Strait / Miranda Lambert Jacksonville
Arena, (904) 353-3309

April 7
Joan Baez Florida Theatre, (904) 355-2787
Nightmare of You / Edison Glass Jack Rabbits,
(904) 398-7496

April 8
Seventh Day Slumber "Finally Awake" Tour
Murray Hill Theatre, (904) 388-7807
Orchestra Concert featuring **Marguerite**
Richardson Terry Concert Hall, (904) 256-7345
Dubconscious Freebird Live, (904) 246-2473

April 9
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April 10 to April 12
Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra: Viva Opera,
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April 10
Piotr Szewczyk presents **Violin Futura** Main
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/ Ratpak Fuel Coffeehouse, (904) 425-FUEL

April 11 to April 13
2008 Jacksonville Jazz Festival Metropolitan Park,
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April 11
The Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition Florida
Theatre, (904) 355-2787
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Episcopal Church, Orange Park, (904) 264-0711
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Live, (904) 246-2473
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Tough Junkie Fuel Coffeehouse, (904) 425-FUEL
Tab Benoit Mojos Blues Bar, Jacksonville Beach,
(904) 247- 6636

April 12
Buddy Guy and Robert Cray St. Augustine
Amphitheatre, (904) 209-3752
"A Soiree with Schubert and Sondheim" St.
Mark's Lutheran Church, (904) 264-0711
Sleeping At Last / Declare Murray Hill Theatre,
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Fat Satchel Jack Rabbits, (904) 398-7496

April 13
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JU Chamber Ensembles Concert Terry Concert
Hall, (904) 256-7345
Robert W. Tudor, baritone (Intermezzo Free
Sunday Concert) Main Library, (904) 630-2665
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Conte Times-Union Center, (904) 353-3900
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Episcopal Church, Ponte Vedra Beach, (904) 264-
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(continued on page 24)

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2008 jacksonville jazz festival

Interview with Lynne Arriale by rick grant

What: 2008 Jacksonville Jazz Festival
Where: Florida Theatre and Metropolitan Park
When: Friday April 11th – Sunday April 13th

The 2008 Jacksonville Jazz Festival will again kick off with the Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition at the Florida Theatre in beautiful downtown Jacksonville. Although drastically reduced in scale from previous years, and almost canceled altogether, the City of Jacksonville has managed to pull together another Jazz Festival this year.

I remember doing an interview with gifted jazz pianist Lynne Arriale back in the early 90s after she won the Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition portion of the Jacksonville Jazz Festival in 1993. Lynne had just moved to New York City to test the waters for furthering her career. She thrived in the glare of the bright lights and big city, quickly becoming the darling of the NYC jazz media.

Strictly Jazz gushed “Lynne is pensive, passionate, haunting, genuine, enlightening and deeply affecting.” That more than defines the writer’s impression of Lynne’s artistry. Even in the small jazz piano genre, she was making friends and influencing important people.

Bringing everything full circle, Lynne Arriale will be judging the Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition at this year’s Jazz Festival.

When I first witnessed Lynne play live, I was impressed that she never lost the motif or theme in her complex improvisations. She restates the melody to keep it firmly implanted in the listener’s mind. If a jazz artist doesn’t do that, then the improvisations go off on a tangent from the theme, waxing abstract, causing the listener to lose interest.

“When we play live, there’s an added sense of adrenaline and excitement, which is intensified by the audience response. It is richly rewarding to feel the audience breathing with us, like a fourth part to our three way conversation,” Lynne says on her website.

For a number of years, I’d lost track of Lynne. So when I called her at a local number, I was delighted to find out that she has moved to Jacksonville Beach and is now teaching jazz piano at UNF.

“I just moved to Jacksonville. I was so excited to accept the position to teach jazz piano at UNF. Teaching, to me, is also learning. I meet some very gifted jazz pianists and it’s always a pleasure to help them achieve greatness. Of course, they keep me on my toes and I’m always learning and advancing my skills.”

This news only reaffirmed my respect for UNF as a major music school. Now Lynne is one of us and

I am glad she is here passing on her knowledge to gifted students at UNF. Rich Matteson must be looking over from the other side with a big smile at how his fledgling jazz program has progressed since his death.

“Teaching at UNF is the best of both worlds. It allows me to play and teach, and also gives me plenty of opportunity to play gigs all over the globe. It’s an exciting life being associated with a major music school.”

When I called she was packing to travel to Norway for a gig.

“I’m promoting my new DVD, *Live* which was recorded live in Germany. Presently, I’m working on a new project with Randy Brecker, George Moran, and drummer Anthony Pinziotti. My trio includes Rufus Reid on bass, Anthony Pinziotti on drums, and Benny Golson on tenor sax, I’m looking forward to playing with these icons at the festival.”

The DVD package includes a special half hour version of Profile of a Performing Artist and other extras.

On April 11th Lynne and her trio will perform at 2 pm during the Saturday concert at Metropolitan Park. This is the quintessential jazz piano trio.

“Jazz is perpetuated by education, and that’s why I’m honored to teach at UNF, where we have brilliant young players who will go on to find niches in the music business. And thus, jazz continues as an indigenous American art form.”

Speaking of UNF’s brilliant jazz players, the Jacksonville Jazz Festival will also include performances by the UNF Jazz Ensemble 1 Big Band under the direction of Professor JB Scott. The Ensemble is considered the flagship of the University’s prestigious Jazz Studies program, which is headed by alto saxophonist Bunky Green.

Immediately following Lynne Arriale’s performance is the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the University of North Florida’s Jazz Program. Called “Past Present and Future” this two hour performance precedes Terence Blanchard’s world-class performance with a rotating selection of UNF Jazz Studies faculty, current Ensemble 1 players and alumni that have returned to take the Jazz Festival stage. Alumni include David Champagne on trumpet, Chris Creswell on bass trombone, Noel Freidline on piano, Clarence Hines on trombone, James Hogan on guitar and Lisa Kelly on vocal. Other players in the Alumni Reunion group include Juan Rollan, Dan Nickolson, Danny Gottlieb, Barry Greene, Dennis Mmarks and Marc Dickman.

Other headliners performing at the Jazz Festival include living jazz legend Benny Golson, world-class bassist and composer Rufus Reid, innovative drummer Anthony Pinciotti, the Kelly-Scott Jazz Quintet, Capitol Records recording artist and Grammy nominee Dave Koz, the famous Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band, Grammy winner Norman Brown and contemporary jazz pioneer Najee.

In addition to the music, which is obviously the centerpiece of the annual Jacksonville Jazz Festival, this year’s program includes the traditional Jazz Brunch at Met Park on Sunday and Art at the Met on Saturday and Sunday. There will also be a wine tasting both days at Metropolitan Park.

Tickets to the festival are generally \$10 a day. VIP tickets get you access to every event for \$125.

For poor musicians there is the ‘Round Midnight Jazz Jam on Saturday at the Jacksonville Marriott, which is free to the public. Jazz fans are encouraged to bring their instruments and jam with Festival performers. For more information please visit jaxjazzfest.com or call (904) 630-3690.

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gamble rogers folk festival

interview with Mike Cross by rick grant and jon bosworth

WHAT: Gamble Rogers Folk Festival
WHERE: St. John's County Fair Grounds
WHEN: May 2-4, 2008

Mike Cross is a veteran touring musical storyteller who has wowed audiences with his guitar, fiddle playing, and friendly persona. Mike also plays Delta blues on a 12-string guitar, sings original songs and even performs a mean Irish jig. His backwoods humor and intimate communication with audiences are his trademarks. In many ways Mike is a disciple of his old friend, the late Gamble Rogers.

Mike was born in Marysville, Tennessee in 1946 and he grew up in the Appalachian Mountains, a region well known for producing storytelling folk artists. Mike was a promising golfer on a scholarship, but a funny thing happened on the way to college – he met a girl. He gave up his golf scholarship and sold his clubs. That's when he learned a few chords on the guitar from a friend. From there, he knew he had found his calling in life.

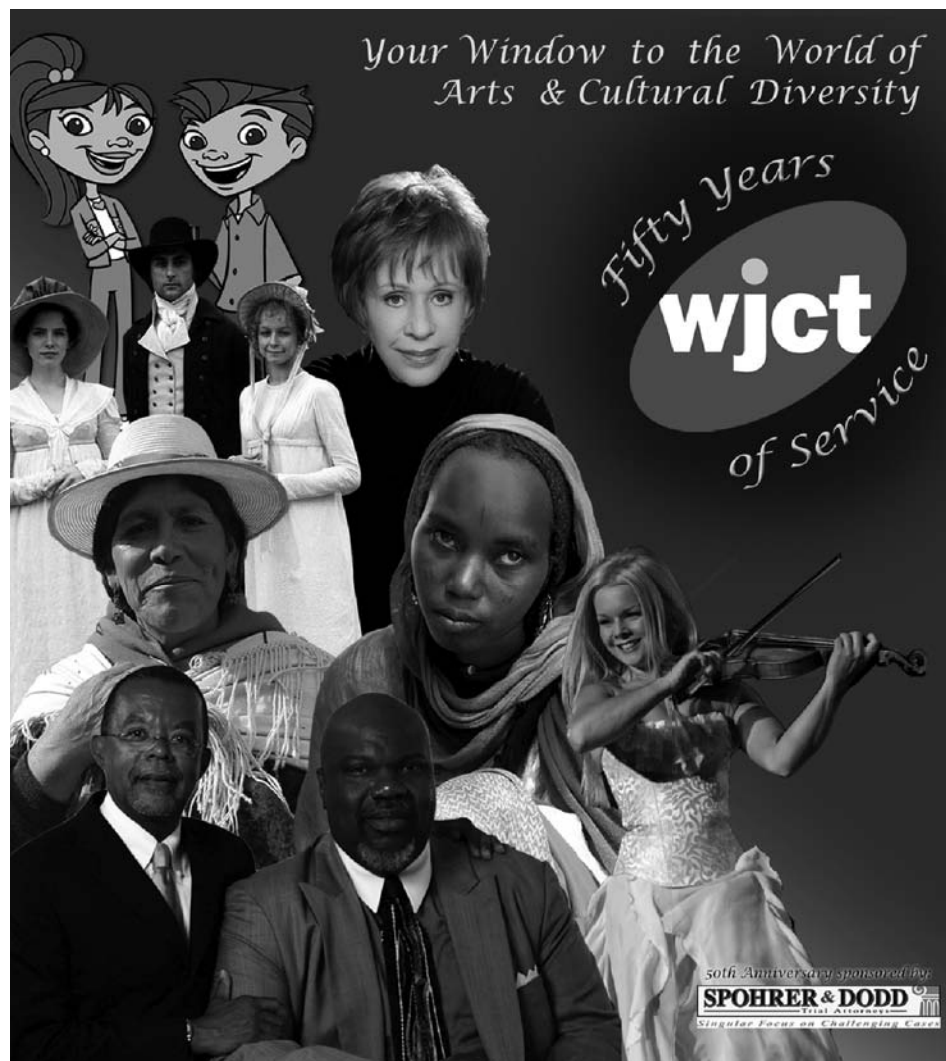
Thirteen albums later and after logging thousands of miles on the road, Mike became a homebody to tend to his kids. Now that they are pursuing the higher learning he left behind, he is free to tour with his wife as his sound engineer. EU caught up with Mike to learn more about his life and times.

"Well, I'm now in a position to return to a full schedule of touring. The kids are off in college so my wife Cindy and I are free to travel. I haven't recorded a studio album in five years, but I've released two new CDs *At Large in the World* and *Michael's Magic Music Box*, which is a collection of songs I wrote after taking my eldest son to school each day. I guess you could call *Music Box* a family album."

He gladly reminisced about his times with Gamble.

"I can't recall any specific milestones, but I do have fond memories of clubs I've played in Florida and, of course, my memories of my traveling buddies Gamble Rogers and Utah Philips. My contact with Gamble was mostly up in Canada where I'd share bills with him and Utah Philips. I was a rookie, but Gamble always treated me with respect and was always ready to share his knowledge of guitar. I learned a lot from Gamble about life and performing."

Although Florida native Gamble Rogers has long been a local hero, he was also something of a na-



tionally known celebrity before his untimely death saving a drowning man at Flagler Beach in 1991. As the front man for the Serendipity Singers, he appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show and the Tonight Show, making his face familiar to people all over the world. After leaving The Singers, he went on to gain prominence in his own right by touring the country with his folk music and famous storytelling skills. A true modern bard.

"Now, everywhere I go, people of my age talk about Gamble being their friend, although I know that they probably only saw him play live. But that's a tribute to Gamble. He treated everyone like a friend. To know him or see him play was to be his friend. He was warm and attentive when people talked to him. Gamble was a generous person with his time and his craft. He always considered himself a part of the human experience, and never put himself above anyone. He considered himself a country boy who played music," said Cross.

Gamble left his family's tradition of being an architect to bring his stories of the fictional Oklawaha County, Florida to his fans all over the world. A regular on various National Public Radio programs, especially *All Things Considered*, he had many friends through American and Canadian public broadcasters. Robin and Linda Williams were featured in the movie *A Prairie Home Companion*, and they were friends with Gamble. They will be joining Cross at the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival, so you can expect plenty of heartwarming stories about this phenomenal man.

Due to his act of heroism, a park in Flagler Beach was dedicated to him and now there is even a St. Augustine Middle School that bears his name. In death he is an inspiration to many, but in life he was a real influence on musicians such as Jimmy Buffet and Mike Cross. Buffet even dedicated his album, *Fruitcakes*, to Gamble shortly after Gamble's death.

"Interestingly, the way he died was most fitting and proved his giving nature. He drowned trying to save two complete strangers. When I heard how he died, I thought that if there was a perfect way for Gamble to go out, that was it. Gamble's prime directive was communicating to audiences through his stories with humor and musical excellence. He truly cared about people," said Cross.

Although Cross has been influenced by Gamble, his act is a show of his own and not an extension of Gamble's work.

"As I traveled around, I considered Gamble an influence, but I developed a unique act that includes playing fiddle and reaching people on an emotional level. That's why I love the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival. It's not only a fitting tribute to Gamble but it brings families together in RVs and tents to sit around the campfire and sing songs and tell stories. I feel blessed to be a part of that scene. These festivals are true Americana, and will never go out of style. As long as I can still play and perform, I will be touring the festivals and clubs doing my thing."

The 13th annual three day Gamble Fest happens on May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2008. In years past the festival has always been held at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, but the directors of the festival decided this year that the St. John's County Fairgrounds would be a more conducive atmosphere to multiple stages, multiple events, and family camping. With six stages loaded with performances by everyone from The Carolina Chocolate Drops, who did the soundtrack for Oprah's recent motion picture *The Great Debaters*, to master guitarist Stevie Coyle, there will be plenty of great performances staged throughout the weekend. Go to gamblefest.com for a complete schedule or visit gamblerogers.com for more information about Gamble Rogers.

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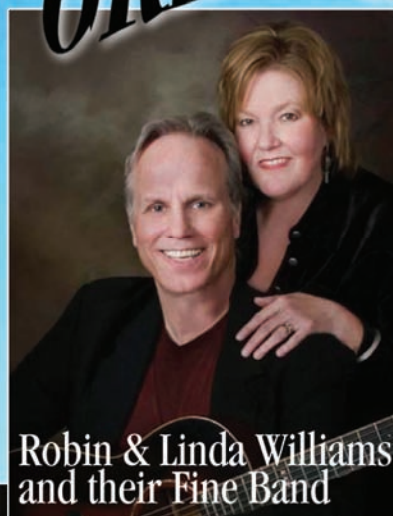
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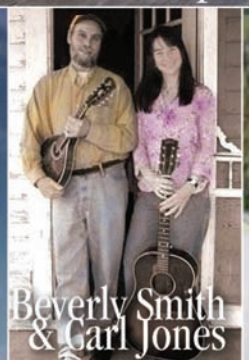
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popping the cork on spring

Springing the Blues Music Festival by jon bosworth & rick grant

WHAT: George’s Music Springing the Blues Oceanfront Music Festival
WHEN: April 4 – 6, 2008
WHERE: Seawalk Plaza, Jacksonville Beach, Florida

It’s that time of year again. Springing the Blues and the opening of the beaches lead to all of our favorite annual springtime events. Activities will be popping up left and right in April as event planners scramble to get their outdoor events staged before another sweltering Florida summer.

Come June, the Florida sun will begin behaving like a giant child with a magnifying glass, watching us scurry from air-conditioned buildings to our air-conditioned cars. But nothing says Spring has sprung with more pizzazz than the annual George’s Music Springing the Blues Festival at Jacksonville Beach. It is the veritable cork to this springtime wine, and this year’s vintage is especially robust.

Eighteen years after it’s inception, Springing the Blues has become a sizeable enough event to be billed as one of the largest blues festivals in the country. Keeping pace with that burgeoning reputation, organizers of this year’s event have made the festival bigger, better, and more relevant to the blues community at large.

The 18th annual Springing the Blues Festival will feature artists Tinsley Ellis, Cephas and Wiggins, Lil’ Ed & the Blues Imperials, Michael Burks, Eric Lindell and Smokin’ Joe Kubek & B’nois King, just to name a few. If those artists sound like they have something in common, you must be a real afficianado. They are all Alligator Records’ artists. This year’s Springing the Blues is a tribute to Alligator Records, which has been known as the premier blues label since the mid-1970s. Alligator’s founder and current owner, Bruce Iglauer.

“Springing the Blues is special because it’s a free festival. And the artists enjoy it because it’s friendly, it’s one of the first events in spring, and there are plenty of attractive people in bathing suits,” said Iglauer. EU had the opportunity to speak with Iglauer recently, and so can you. He will be holding a Q&A at the festival on the West Stage on Saturday at 12:45 pm. This is an opportunity to sit with a man who has been a friend and business associate to many of the biggest names in blues, just to chew the fat.

“I know a lot about the blues and have some great stories. I can tell people what kind of a man Howlin’ Wolf was, not just his music, but as a person.”

The West Stage has been vastly expanded this year, so both stages will have full lineups starting Friday night at 5 pm and rocking through Sunday evening around 7 pm. Every performance is sure to be stellar.

“One of the things crucial to Alligator’s success is that we believe a great live performance is the best marketing there is. If the show is good live, then people will buy the recordings. One of the key reasons I sign artists is that they can deliver an exciting, soulful live performance,” said Ignauer.

This festival holds a special place in his heart, not just because he is a die hard blues fan and seeing many of his artists live in a single day is a rewarding venture, but also because it was at this festival several years ago that he discovered Jacksonville’s JJ Grey and Mofro.

“Signing JJ Grey and Mofro was quite a step for us. We had signed a few artists over the years who had one foot in the blues, but JJ is furthest from the tradition of blues. The first time I heard them was at Springing the Blues a few years ago, so the festival is very much the reason they are on the label now. The blues is about tension and release, releasing your inner feelings, especially the negative ones, to make you feel better. Even though he doesn’t write his songs in traditional blues structures, I get a lot of blues vibe out of JJ. As a hardcore blues fan, JJ’s music speaks loud and clear to me.”

Mofro will not be performing in this year’s blues festival, but there are plenty of locals that will be on the

stage, including the teenage blues sensation Conrad Oberg, longtime local blues hero Ed Cotton, and a band that won’t be announced until the George’s Music staff is done judging the local band contest.

In addition to watching blues played on stage, you can learn from the masters. The Springing the Blues workshops are happening in the Seawalk Hotel Lounge. On Friday, Shane Dwight will be doing a workshop on electric blues guitar. On Saturday, Paul Rishell and Annie Raines talk about acoustic blues guitar and harmonica and Cotton discusses bottleneck slide blues guitar.

Although the music is obviously the centerpiece, there is more to do at this year’s festival than just slap your knee to the blues, you can also check out the Outerfest and Afterfest Activities. The annual Aqua East Surfing the Blues contest on April 5th and 6th has a \$5,000 purse, which is the largest pro purse in Jacksonville this year. There is also the Running the Blues 5K Beach Run on Saturday April 5th. A new addition to the Outerfest Activities, this year is the Tour de Vilano Metric Century 3rd Annual Dan Amico Memorial Bike Ride to Beat Biliary Cancer on Saturday. This ride goes down A1A to the lighthouse and back. Riders enjoy VIP status at the music festival.

In addition to his workshop and scheduled performances, Cotton is also leading the George’s Music Blues in the Schools program throughout various schools in Duval County. Cotton spoke with EU about this project.

“Over the last 8 years I’ve continued my Blues in the Schools shows, playing over 40 schools, including performing arts schools, universities, and community colleges. That was sponsored by the Riverside Fine Arts Associaton. For the Springing the Blues Festival I will go out to various schools, up through high schools, with my presentation. It includes a lot of performing and, in between, I talk about the history of blues and the early instruments. I bring along many quotes from famous blues artists. I also tell the students about what makes up a blues song and the various subjects, like a famous Mississippi flood or a broken romance, so they get a well rounded idea of what the blues means and its impact on today’s music.”



Another new addition to this year’s event is the Springing the Blues Film Festival. Featuring the films of Robert Mugge in the Orca Room of the Quality Suites Hotel (next to the festival grounds), the cinematic portion of the festival gives you a chance to slip into some air-conditioning and learn more about the cultural backdrop of the blues from Mugge’s blues-centered documentaries. The most famous of Mugge’s films are 1991’s *Deep Blues* and 2006’s *New Orleans Music in Exile*, but all three days have movies on the screen, so make sure you check out a few of these films over the course of the weekend. Robert Mugge will also be here for the festival, so you may have the opportunity to discuss his films or his love for the blues with him in person.

If you haven’t had enough when the Seawalk stage goes quiet, check out the blues jam at Mojos Kitchen & Blues Bar every evening after the festival.

So this Spring’s festival has quite a bouquet. The family-friendly festival is free to all, but if you want premium-seating wristbands to break away from the crowd, they are available for \$50 for all three days or for varying prices for individual days. Remember to plan your parking in advance (you should consider car-pooling) and do not bring coolers, tents, umbrellas, pets or video cameras to the festival. For more detailed information visit springingtheblues.com. To read more of our interviews with Bruce Ignauer and Ed Cotton go to eujacksonville.com.



Smokin' Joe Kubek with
B'nois King

Interview with Smokin' Joe Kubek by rick grant

Smoking' Joe Kubek has rambled down the blues tracks since age 14 when, as a guitar prodigy, he hooked up with Robert Whitfield for Whitfield's 1979 tribute to R. L. Griffin. Smokin' Joe also recorded with Charlie Robinson, Big Ray Anderson and Ernie Johnson on Little Joe Blue's classic album *It's My Turn Now* in the early 80s.

In 1989, Smokin' Joe found a kindred spirit when he jammed with B'nois King from Monroe, Louisiana. Kling's jazz-styled guitar and soulful vocals contrasted Smokin' Joe's finger and slide guitar techniques. This fortuitous meeting of the minds was the start of a longtime collaboration and friendship that has propelled this duo into the higher echelon of today's blues hierarchy.

"B'nois is doing great. We actually live five minutes away from each other and we're friends. We met at a Monday night gig and hit it off musically and personally. We get along really great. It's effortless, and we don't have to worry about pulling off a successful gig. You could say that we trust one another on and off stage," Smokin' Joe said to EU from his home in Texas.

For the past 27 years, Smoking' Joe has lived in Dallas. In the 80s he played with a legion of big names including Stevie Ray Vaughan, B.B. King, and Albert King. But that hasn't made him arrogant. He's still a down-home bluesman.

"B'nois and I just released our new Alligator album, *Blood Brothers*, and we're getting ready to tour to support it. All is good. Everybody is in good spirits and ready to rock. We are out on the road for the busy festival season. It's lucky we both love to tour. We'll play anywhere there's an electrical outlet."

Smokin' Joe is a master blaster with an arsenal of advanced techniques at his fingertips. His in-your-faced style never lets up, but melds well with B'nois King's jazzy style, which represents a trademark sound for the duo's rolling thunder act.

"We are really proud of our new album, especially the songs which come across as inspired and feature our flame-throwing guitar solos."

Joe went on to say that this will be his third time performing at the George's Music Springing the Blues Festival.

"I'm looking forward to coming to Jacksonville Beach for the Springing the Blues Festival. Man, that amphitheater right on the ocean is hard to beat."

When you're looking for some serious electric guitar sounds to drive to, put *Blood Brothers* on in the car and let Smokin' Joe and B'nois give it to you with both barrels.

"Our new album is more song-oriented with a lot of wild guitar work."

But even better than blasting these hot licks on a long drive is getting to see them light up the Seawalk Pavilion stage live in concert. See the spectacle for yourself when Smokin' Joe Kubek and B'nois King take the Main Stage at 6 pm on Sunday, April 6th.

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theatre & culture

april 08

March 28 - April 12

Night of the Iguana Tennessee Williams' classic is about an alcoholic ex-minister who acts as a tour guide becoming involved with a spinster and a hotel owner. Cast includes Maury Covington as the Minister, Gayle Featheringill as the Spinster and Cee Cee Hayes as the hotel owner. Players by the Sea, Jacksonville Beach. Info: (904) 249-0289

March 29-April 6

The Pirates of Penzance Gilbert & Sullivan's popular operetta is a funny and delightful show perfect for the whole family. You will enjoy all of the songs, pirates, police, beautiful maids, topsy-turvy plot twists and Modern Major-Generals you know and love. First Coast Opera, Pedro Menendez Performing Arts Center, State Road 206, St. Augustine. Info: (904) 417-5555

April 1

The Tempest Lovers meet, villainy is uncovered, and passions are unleashed in this magical story. The latest adaptation of Shakespeare's work, considered both a comedy and a romance by critics, is presented by The Acting Studio—New York's finest acting school. UNF Fine Arts Center, Info: (904) 620-1895

April 4

The Mikado London's acclaimed Carl Rosa Opera Company returns to the THCA with this sparkling and lavish recreation of Gilbert & Sullivan's original 1885 Savoy production of *The Mikado*. *The Mikado* delivers a satiric look at love triangles and political hypocrisy in the fairy-tale setting of ancient Japan. Thrasher-Horne Center, Info: (904) 276-6750

April 4

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Romantic, radiant, exuberant and edgy are a few words that describe this engaging troupe of dancers with a big vision for presenting intriguing collections. A highlight of the evening's performance will be a Sinatra Suite choreographed by Twila Tharp, an everlasting icon who has changed the look of dance by fusing the classical, modern and jazz forms that have catapulted ballet into the 21st century. UNF Fine Arts Center, Info: (904) 620-2878

April 4-12

Oklahoma! This was Rodgers & Hammerstein's first collaboration. Set in a Western Indian Territory just after the turn of the century, a high-spirited rivalry between local farmers and cowboys sets the tone for a touching love story. Swisher Theater, Jacksonville University, Info: (904) 256-7345

April 5

Simply Ballroom The sensational ballroom dance spectacular, direct from London's West End. Before *Dancing With The Stars*.... Before *So You Think You Can Dance* came the show that started it all ... BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing!* Now the creatives behind this hit UK television program bring you the sensational stage production *Simply Ballroom*. Times-Union Center, Info: (904) 632-3373

April 9 – June 4

Jesus Christ Superstar A musical that portrays the last seven days in the earthly life of Christ. The large cast includes Justin Murphy as Jesus and local favorites Lee Hamby, Miranda Lawson, David Sacks, Tony Triano, Ken Uibel, Juan Unzueta, Michelle Barry, Matthew Campbell, with Tod Booth directing, and Conrad De'Andrea as Choreographer. Alhambra Dinner Theater, Info: (904) 641-1212

April 11

Swan Lake One performance only of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet, featuring 40 dancers and the Sofia

Symphony Orchestra. FCCJ Artist Series, Times Union Center, Moran Theater, Info: 904-632-3228

April 11- May 11

Biloxi Blues Playwright Neil Simon’s youthful alter ego, Eugene Jerome is in the Army as WWII winds down during basic training in Biloxi, Mississippi. Limelight Theatre, St. Augustine, Info: (904) 825-1164

April 12

Auditions For Who’s Afraid Of Virginia Woolf Auditions for Limelight Theatre’s May-June production of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* will be held Saturday, April 12 at noon. Limelight Theatre, St. Augustine, Info: (904) 825-1164

April 17-20

On The Razzle As Anita Gates described this play in the New York Times, imagine “Hello Dolly” without Dolly Levi, written by Tom Stoppard in a Catskill comic style. Wilson Center, FCCJ. Info: (904) 646-2222

April 18-20

The Calling Meet the playwright, Deborah Jordan, at the Opening Night Reception on April 18.

April 26, 27

She’s Wonderful A world premiere of the 2007 First Coast Writers Festival playwriting contest winner, Ruth Coe Chambers. Taking place over a period of a few hours, the backgrounds of three women - a daughter, her mother and a neighbor - reveal how experience shapes our personalities. Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre (ABET), Adele Grage Cultural Center. Info: (904) 249-7177

April 18-20

Barefoot In The Park This Tony-nominated comedy by Neil Simon focuses on a New York newlywed couple adjusting to married life. The strait-laced attorney husband and spontaneous, free-spirited wife must contend with a lack of heat, several long flights of stairs, oddball neighbors, and a well-meaning mother-in-law. Thrasher-Horne Center, (904) 276-6750

April 18-May 11

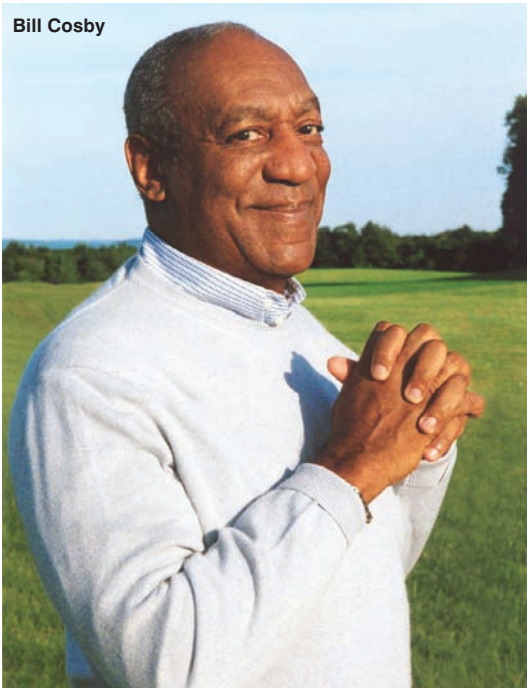
The Pursuit Of Happiness Not to be confused with movie of same name, Richard Dresser’s new comedy has lots of laughs and nods especially for baby boomers. Hippodrome State Theatre, Gainesville. Info: (352) 375-4477

April 18- May 3

Absence of A Cello A comedy that chronicles the trials of a brilliant but broke scientist who tries to enter the corporate world. The all star cast that includes Roger Lowe, Robbie Neal and Tracy Olin. Theatre Jacksonville, San Marco Blvd., Info: (904) 396-4425

April 18

Your Arms Too Short to Box with God Loosely based on the Gospel of St. Matthew, this two-act musical with music and lyrics by Vinnette Carol, Alex Bradford and Micki Grant, played on Broadway from 1976 to 1979 and launched the career of Jennifer Holiday. Bradford’s classic song “Too Close to Heaven” is just one of many in this energetic, spiritual and spell-binding production. Presented by Ritz Black Broadway, Ritz Theatre & LaVilla Museum. Info: (904) 632-5555



Bill Cosby

for a few laughs

April 2-3

John Edward Internationally acclaimed psychic medium John Edward uses his unique abilities to connect people with loved ones who have passed on. Deeply compelling, often startling and occasionally humorous. Florida Theatre, Info: (904) 355-2787

April 5

Jim Gaffigan Well known for his “hot pocket” jokes, Gaffigan is sure to fill this Saturday evening with tons of laughs. Some credits to Gaffigan’s name include his DVD “Beyond the Pale” (which went gold), “Super Troopers,” “The Great New Wonderful,” and “13 Going On 30.” He also co-writes and voice acts on the animated shorts entitled “Pale Force,” on the Conan O’Brien Show. UNF Arena, Info: (904) 620-2460

April 12

Bill Cosby Bill Cosby uses his gift of comedy to represent the voice of the vast,

ordinary world. Times Union Center, 5 and 8 pm, Info: (904)632-3373

April 20

Latin Kings of Comedy Paul Rodriguez and his royal court including Frank Lucero, Manny Maldonado and Gene Pompa should have you rolling in the aisles. Florida Theatre, Info: (904) 355-2787

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A presentation of the Florida Community College Artist Series

abet in april

two local playwrights get their due **by kellie abrahamson**

We on the First Coast are fortunate enough to have a great theater community. Each week there's at least one new show gracing a stage somewhere in town and most of the time the audience is rewarded for their attention with poignant performances by some very talented local actors and actresses. Too few people are aware of just how terrific our local performers can be, but that's another story for another time. Instead, we're going to take a look at two people on the other side of the page- local playwrights Deborah Jordan and Ruth Coe Chambers. ABET (Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre) will be presenting staged readings of original plays by both women in April.

If you've never been to a staged reading (also known as a "reader's theater" performance), you'll probably need some pre-show preparation. Instead of conventional performances complete with elaborate sets and costumes, staged readings are "theater of the imagination."

"[Actors] play the characters but there's no staging, there's no movement or props or sets or anything like that," explained Celia Frank, ABET's Artistic Director. "A lot of times when a playwright is working on a script, many times in New York and other cities, they'll have a staged reading just to get audience reactions."

In these productions it's the words on display, not the actors or the stage make-up. That said, this is the perfect arena for getting to know a writer's work. It frees the performers and the audience from the physical limitations of traditional theater and allows everyone involved a chance to hear the beauty of the words without distraction. What better way to experience the work of an up-and-coming playwright?

The back-to-back weekends of reader's theater begins with Deborah Jordan's "The Calling." The piece is a monologue play about a real life religious community made up of 62 sisters who live and minister in the Northwest. The stories told were penned from over 200 hours of taped interviews from the Sisters of St. Gertrude's Monastery, a Roman Catholic community out of Cottonwood, Idaho, and include tales of how the monastery was founded in the late 1800s and why these "modern day 'monks'" have chosen a life of prayer and service.

"Debbie Jordan is a friend of mine and I was aware of the script she was writing," Franks said. "I knew that her sister is a member of the convent that this script is about and I was just real interested in it. I thought it sounded like an interesting thing to maybe generate some new audience; people that might not come to a regular production of ours might be interested in something like this."

Jordan is a familiar player in our local performing arts community. A theater professor at Jacksonville University, Jordan has had a hand in most of the plays coming out of JU, including serving as director in their recent performance of "The Grapes of Wrath." "The Calling" will be performed on Friday, April 18 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 20 at 2 pm. Jordan will be at the opening night reception on the 18th to meet with the audience and answer any questions you may have.

The following weekend, the 2007 First Coast Writers Festival playwriting contest winner Ruth Coe Chambers will present her play "She's Wonderful." The story centers on a few hours in the lives of three women- a daughter, her mother and a neighbor- who all have things in their pasts that directly affect their actions and feelings today. Through these women, Chambers shows we all have holes in our lives that we try to fill, but the most difficult part is realizing the holes are there.

"ABET had done a play by [Chambers] last season [the 2005 First Coast Writer's Festival winner "Changing Places"], a reading also, and it went well. Then she won the award again for this one and I really liked this script so I just wanted to do it," Frank said.

In addition to penning plays, Chambers is also a novelist. Her first book, *The Chinaberry Album*, got great reviews and she is currently working on getting its sequel in a bookstore near you. You can see the world premiere of "She's Wonderful" on Saturday, April 26 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 27 at 2 pm. Like the previous weekend, Chambers will be on hand during the April 26th opening night reception to meet fans and theatergoers.

Most of the plays that go on in and around the Jacksonville area are adaptations of works by famed playwrights like Arthur Miller or Tennessee Williams. While these writers have produced time-tested works of art, it's nice to see our local scribes get their due as well.

See one or both of these reader's theater productions in April at the Adele Grage Cultural Center at 716 Ocean Blvd in Atlantic Beach. The cost for each of these productions is \$5. For more information on these and other shows put on by ABET, visit their website at abettheater.com or call (904) 249-7177.

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visual art events

april 08

Downtown Art Walk; Wednesday, April 2 from 5 pm – 9 pm, Jazz will be the theme of this months Art Walk. Purchase a 2008 Jazz Festival poster and have it signed by the artist while enjoying the sounds of jazz at Hemming Plaza. A map of the galleries can be acquired at any of the venues, including MOCA Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Landing, and Art Walk Headquarters at 100 North Laura Street

St. Augustine Art Walk; First Friday of every month from 5 pm – 9 pm, Tours begin at Rembrandtz Fine Gifts for Fun People, 131 King Street, St. Augustine, (904) 829-0065 or staugustinegalleries.com

Beaches Art Walk; Second Tuesday of each month from 5 pm – 8 pm, 9 varied venues, jaxbeachesartwalk.org

North Beaches Art Walk; Every third Thursday of each month, 5 pm – 9 pm, Atlantic/Neptune Beach area (904) 249-2222 or archwayframing@aol.com

LoudSOUNDLive; Thursday, April 3, 7 pm, University Gallery at UNF, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Road, Founders Hall, Building Two; (904) 620-2534 or www.unf.edu/dept/gallery
This event features media artist and writer Joe Milutis from Columbia, SC. He is an art professor at the U of SC and the author of the recent book *Ether: The Nothing that Connects Everything* will give a sound art performance entitled: "Airspace: Radio Transmission, Sound Poetry, and Live Laptop Performances."

"Surviving to Thriving" April 3, Women's Center of Jacksonville, 5644 Colcord
Come out for artists' reception and artistic look at survival during Sexual Assault Awareness month. Event lasts from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info visit www.womenscenterofjax.org or contact Deb Phillians at (904) 722.3000 x227

It's Starting Here: Our First Open Studio; Paintings by Ali Isabelle and Shannon Estlund, Friday, April 4, 6 – 9 pm, Ish Art and Music, 2746 Park Street, Riverside; (904) 472-4434

Spring Stock Art Festival; April 5, St. Johns Marketplace on the St. Augustine flea market festival grounds. Festivities include a wakeboard exhibition, a freestyle motocross show, artists' work, two stages with live music and much more. The event lasts from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Overnight camping is permitted for \$15. Tickets for the event are \$15 pre sale and \$25 at the door. For more info visit: www.springstock.net and www.myspace.com/springstock08

Beaches Gallery Tour; Saturday, April 5, 11 am – 5 pm.
Galleries located from Neptune Beach to Ponte Vedra Beach have united for the 5th year of the original Beaches Gallery Tour. The galleries invite you to stop by to view the work of international, regional and local emerging artists. Galleries will have an artist on site for demonstration and discussion. Maps and refreshments are available at each location. Participating Galleries include Stellers Gallery Annex, Chao Framing and Fine Art, J. Johnson Gallery, The Artistree, Beaches Art & Frame Gallerie, Eclectic Galleries, Stellers Gallery at Ponte Vedra, and the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra.

Richard Riverin; On display through April 5, R. Roberts Gallery, 3606 Saint Johns Avenue, Avondale; (904) 388-1188 or jen@rrobertsgallery.com

People- One or More Art Show; On display through April 13, St Augustine Art Association; (904) 824-2310 or staaa.org

George Spivey: American Primitive Painter; Monday, April 14, Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Drive, Orange Park; (904) 276-6815 or thcenter.org

Sensai: Fragile Beauty: by Jennifer J.L. Jones; On display through April 18, Stellers Gallery Annex, 200 First Street, Neptune Beach; (904) 273-6065 or stellersgallery.com

Persian Visions: Contemporary Photography from Iran; Through April 20, Southeast Museum of Photography, 1200 International Speedway Boulevard, Daytona Beach, smponline.org

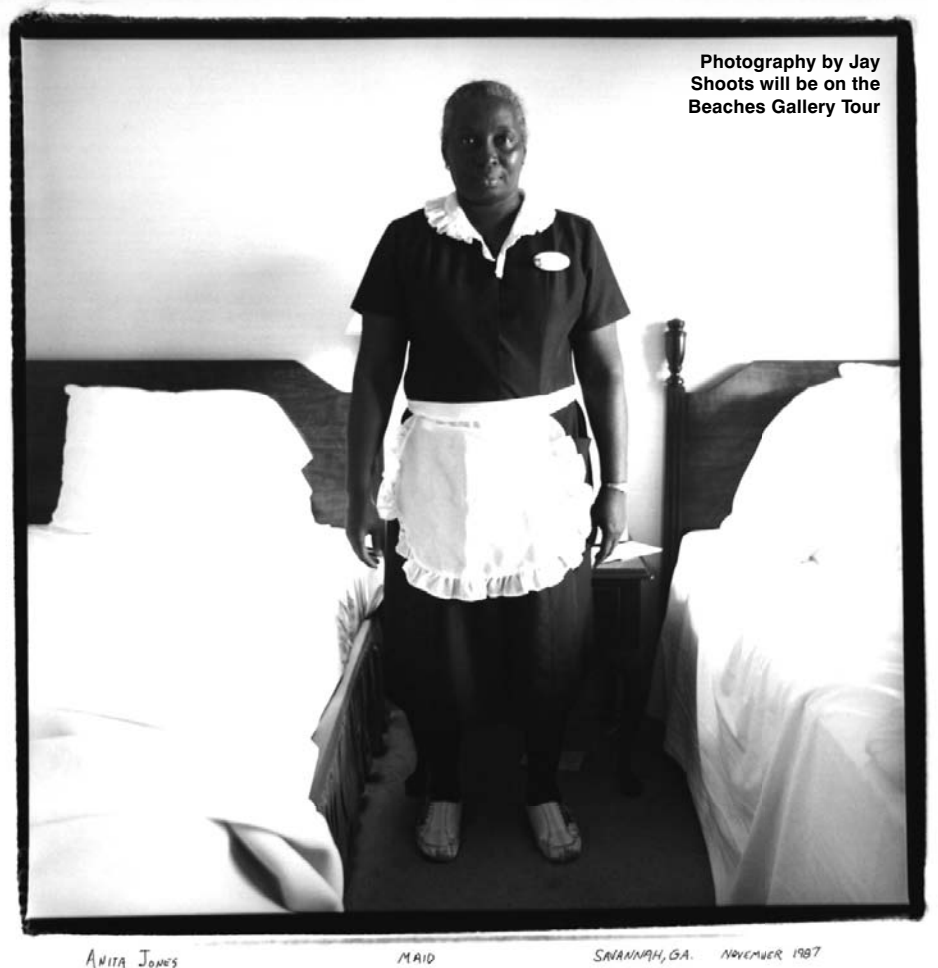
Jim Vecchi: Witness to Infinity; Through April 20, Southeast Museum of Photography, 1200 International Speedway Boulevard, Daytona Beach; smponline.org

Jason Wright; Runs through April 30, Burrito Gallery, 21 East Adams Street, Downtown; (904) 598-2922 or burritogallery.com

Thomas Hager: Closer; On display through April 30, Jane Gray Gallery, 643 Edison Avenue; (904) 338-5790 or janegraygallery.com

Labor Show! Opening Reception Saturday April 5, 8 pm – 11 pm, Bogda, 1253 McDuff Avenue South; (904) 387-0852

BFA Art Exhibition; April 3 - May 3, Opening Reception, April 3, 5 pm – 7 pm, Photography Minors Exhibition in the Photography Gallery from 5 pm – 7 pm, Alexander Brest Gallery and Museum at



Jacksonville University, 2800 University Boulevard North, Phillips Fine Arts Building; (904) 256-7371 or arts.ju.edu/art.html

SONrise; March 14 – May 4, Bethel Gallery at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach; (904) 285-7241 Various local artists have chosen passages from various parts of the Bible, to represent their feelings and thoughts of the gifts and blessings given to us from our Lord and God. Hours for viewing are 9 am to 5 pm daily, 9 am – 12 pm on Sunday. Closed Saturday.

Carl De Keyzer: Zona; On display through May 23, Southeast Museum of Photography, 1200 International Speedway Boulevard, Daytona Beach, smponline.org

Art on a Pedestal; On display through May 23, PIE Studio, 1827 North Pearl Street, Springfield; (904) 247-8337 or www.piestudio.net

This challenging theme provided a catalyst for artists to submit a wide variety of entries from all around the country to PIE Studio's recent art competition. Juror Ethan Karp (of the renowned OK Harris Gallery in NYC) selected each of the works that will be featured.

Tony Rodrigues: Gurus, Boatsmen and Beasts; April 4 - May 30, Opening Reception Friday April 4, 6 pm – 12 am, The Gallery at Screen Arts, 228 West King Street, St. Augustine, (904) 829-2838 or screenartsflorida.com

Ernest Hemingway and Walker Evans: Three Weeks in Cuba, 1933; On display through June 1, Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, (904) 899-6034 or cummer.org
The exhibition displays 37 vintage photographic prints by Walker Evans and seven copied prints that were found amongst Ernest Hemingway's possessions after his death, along with notes and personal artifacts. These documents and images reveal a friendship between the two men in Havana during a time of growing political instability. The set of Evans' prints that Hemingway acquired in 1933 and stored away for years has never been exhibited until recently.

Project Augusta Savage; April 29 – June 29, Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, (904) 899-6034 or cummer.org

The Many Faces of the St. Johns River; On display through July 13, Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, (904) 899-6034 or cummer.org
In its third year, the exhibition features the interpretations and responses to the St. Johns River through the eyes of 125 students from Douglas Anderson. The exhibit showcases the students' works of art as well as a nearly 30-foot mixed media installation.

Precious Gifts of Asian Art; On display through September, Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, (904) 899-6034 or cummer.org



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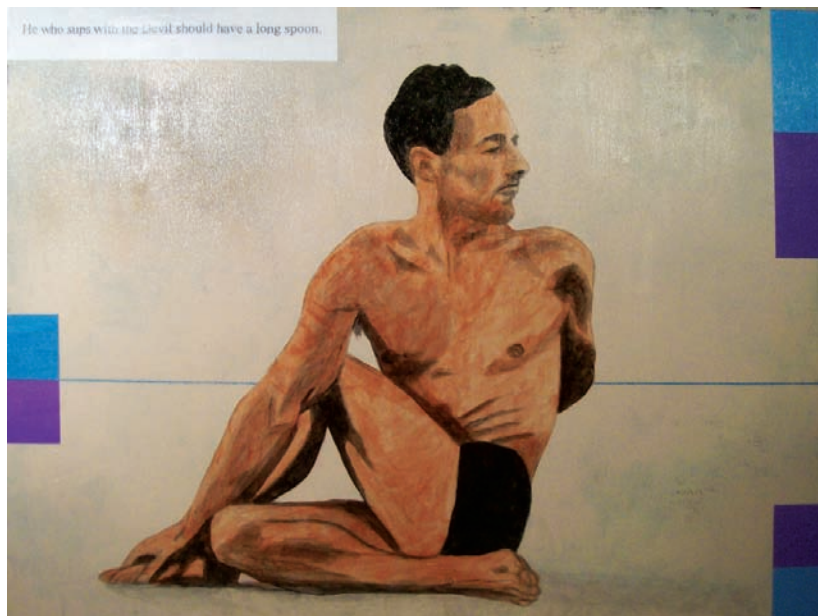
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this is an article about a superhero named tony

a profile of Tony Rodrigues by donald dusinberre



Until recently, articles within the pages of Entertaining U vanished into thin air in just a week. Although everything you read in print is also indefinitely archived on our website (eu.jacksonville.com), any effort to highlight one of our city’s artists had an unfortunate short street life.

But now that we’ve got an even larger paper out on the streets for an entire month, we can take advantage of the opportunity to profile Jacksonville-based artists, knowing that longer exposure will have a lasting impression on the people who enjoy art and visit galleries.

Our first artist is Tony Rodrigues, whose recent work will be on display at my favorite gallery in St. Augustine, the Gallery at Screen Arts. The exhibition, entitled *Gurus, Boatsmen and Beasts*, is an intimate look at Rodrigues’ exploration of stock images, old photographs, and pictures from vintage magazines, guides and instruction manuals. The exhibition begins on Friday, April 4th and runs through May 30th, 2008.

Rodrigues is a painter, but his work is inextricably tied to photography, which was the first medium he took serious interest in.

“I’m drawn to the pictures and images in old catalogs, manuals and stuff like that,” he says. “Painting from a found image and placing it in a new context is a really fascinating process for me. Most of the images weren’t supposed to be seen as artistic, which...makes you have to rethink what they suggest.”

Rodrigues’ work and personality has influenced and inspired viewers and artists alike. Having heard about his impact on other artists in Jacksonville over the years, one of the first things I wanted to know was if Rodrigues was a native of Jacksonville. I was obviously delighted to hear that he is, especially since his work is so highly regarded. Mark George spoke fondly and deliberately:

“Tony has definitely been an influence on me in painting. I really like the era he represents- mid-century photography with sepia tones- it stands out. I’ve known him since ’91, and he fathered me into the whole painting thing. I was working more with assemblages and installations, but he brought me to his studio in Brooklyn and thought it would be interesting to try working to-

gether. He had recently picked up a copy of *Art in America* that had an article about Basquiat and Warhol in it, describing their work together and their different approaches to it. My first painting was a collaboration with Tony, and it is still hanging in my living room. It has a lot of meaning to me.”

Many others could easily cite Rodrigues as an influence. He has undoubtedly made an indelible mark on the present and future of Jacksonville’s art scene, most recently while working as an art instructor to troubled juveniles at the Duval County Jail and as an adjunct instructor at Jacksonville University.

In fact, one might say that his influence is more from the relationships he develops than from the art he shows, mainly because he doesn’t overexpose his work here in Jacksonville. His shows are infrequent, which probably keeps folks thirsty for his work. When he left town to attend college and earn his BFA at the Atlanta College of Art, he learned that an artist can best succeed when he or she is willing to branch out.

“If you really want to be an artist who can live off selling your art, you’ve got to get out there and show your work in other cities,” He says. “It’s fine to show your work in town, but you’ve got to work hard at getting it shown in as many places as you can.”

Though he does put in the effort to get his work in galleries all over the country, it seems he more enjoys the process of making his art than the tedious job of selling and showing it. “I

sometimes have a hard time balancing the time I spend working on my art with the time I need to spend getting it out there. I’m not naturally inclined toward marketing myself, and it’s hard to switch my attention back and forth.”

Nevertheless, Rodrigues was sure to point out that he would probably show his work in Jacksonville more often if there were more places to do it. “I’d like to see more galleries open up around town so that artists have more places to show their stuff.” He said that not all spaces are appropriate for all

artwork, which is an important element to viewing art effectively. We talked at length about how art is presented and how one’s surroundings alter the experience of viewing art. Rodrigues hopes that when people see his work, they’re left with a piece of it stuck in their head for days. Although there is a benefit to putting art in all kinds of places like restaurants, stores and bars, I admit that it’s hard to get the full effect when there’s a family of four eating their dinner under the painting you’re trying to look at.

And there’s one place he’s not completely sold on: downtown during the popular monthly Art Walk, though he certainly believes it is a benefit to the community and the artists within it. “Art Walk is a great time, and it’s good that people are exposed to so much artwork all at once, but most people hardly take the time to look at the art because there is so much other stuff going on. I mean, I’m glad the city puts it on, but we’ve got to have more dedicated spaces for people to visit and really look at the artwork.”

Although Tony Rodrigues’ influence on Jacksonville’s art scene might not always be glaringly obvious, I believe it will become more apparent as our local artists grow in number and talent. “There are a lot of really good new artists here in Jacksonville,” he says. Many of

them have him to thank.

Take the uncommon opportunity to check out Tony Rodrigues’ *Gurus, Boatsmen and Beasts* art exhibition at the Gallery at Screen Arts in St. Augustine. It will be on display from April 4 to May 30, 2008, and there will be an opening party (with food) on April 4th from 6 pm to midnight.



the many faces of the st. johns river

at the Cummer by erin thursby

Life-sustaining, controversial, polluted—these are just three of the often contradictory words used to describe the St. Johns River. These many facets of the river are the source of the Cummer's exhibition *New View: The Many Faces of the St. Johns River*. The main piece in the exhibition is a joint effort between the Cummer and students at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

Despite the fact that the river is an ever-present part of our city, many of the students hadn't really gotten to know it.

"Other than driving over the river, many of the students involved had never had direct contact with the river, so we decided to give them real life experiences," says Hope McMath, Deputy Director of Programming at The Cummer.

The students went on a river tour and visited JAXPORT in preparation for their project. It's a river that means many different things to many different people—a place to fish, a pretty view, a dumping ground or a vital part of city's culture. Douglas Anderson students looked at art through the ages regarding rivers, from Egyptian depictions of the Nile to modern art. The Cummer has a collection of art depicting the St. Johns, the wildlife on its banks and historical prints that the students also studied.

Just taking in everything that a river means to the people living along its banks was an unwieldy task, but the 150 students did that, and more. They took all of those concepts and ideas to make one large collaborative work, a mixed media interpretation of the river.

As of June 24th they'll have a modified installation of the exhibition that will include a documentary film about the project being created. Students in the Douglas Anderson film department produced this film. The exhibition will be traveling for a year after it leaves the Cummer.

One of the students told McMath that it was the most difficult project that he'd been involved with, simply because it was so difficult to get 150 people to agree, when all of them had such different ideas, both artistically and conceptually.

"Imagine a whole city trying to decide to do what do with the river..." said McMath. "That's why the project was a kind of microcosm."

To create the finished collaboration, the students voted on ideas and created small mock ups of ideas called maquettes. One of the rooms in the exhibition is devoted to some of the maquettes they created during the process. Finished student work also hangs throughout the gallery, between pieces that more famous artists rendered of the St. Johns and the wildlife surrounding it. You'll see something

from Audubon, multiple historical prints from Theodor de Bry and scenic watercolor from Fredrick Frieseke. All of these artists visited the banks of the St. Johns for inspiration.

If you visit, you're sure to be inspired by this collection of works. At the very least, you might be thinking about the river in a whole new way.

The exhibition runs through July 13th. For more information, call (904) 355-0630.



"in marjorie's wake" film preview and lecture

April 1st, 6:30-8:30pm

Come for an evening of historic entertainment traversing along the St. Johns River. Special guest speaker, filmmaker, and author, Bill Belleville, will present his new documentary, *In Marjorie's Wake* prior to its national release on PBS. By recreating the historic trip that Pulitzer-prize winning author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings once made on the river in 1933 and contrasting that to contemporary journeys of today, it will examine the many ways in which the St. Johns River has shaped culture—literature, art and

music—over time. Includes exhibition tour, book signing.

panel discussion new view: the many faces of the st. johns river

June 3rd 7pm-8:30pm

Panelists from Riverkeepers, Douglas Anderson School for the Arts, JAXPORT, UNF, and The Cummer will discuss the unique and poignant issues surrounding the ecological, economical, historical and aesthetic elements driven by the St. Johns River.

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NOW SHOWING

21

This is the true story of M.I.T. student Ben Campbell who is broke, shy but brilliant. To pay school tuition, Ben joins a group of the school's most gifted students that heads to Las Vegas every weekend. By counting cards and employing an intricate system of signals, the team can beat the casinos big time. Starring Kevin Spacey, Jim Sturgess, Kate Bosworth, Laurence Fishburne. Rated PG13

RUN, FAT BOY, RUN

David Schwimmer directs this oversized comedy about a charming but obviously overweight guy who jilts his fiancée on their wedding day only to discover years later that he really loves her. To win her back, he must finish a marathon while making her realize that her new handsome, wealthy fiancée is the wrong guy for her. This cornball caper starring Simon Pegg, Hank Azaria and Thandie Newton pegs the popcorn meter. Rated PG-13

STOP-LOSS

Decorated Iraq war hero Sgt. Brandon King makes his celebrated return to his small Texas hometown following his tour of duty. Brandon tries to resume the life he left behind with the help and support of his family and his best friend, Steve Shriver, who served with him in Iraq. Brandon and Steve try to make peace with civilian life. Then, against Brandon's will and protests, the Army orders him back to duty in Iraq. Starring Ryan Phillippe, Abbie Cornish and Channing Tatum. Rated R

APRIL 4

LEATHERHEADS

George Clooney stars in and directs this period sports drama about the birth of professional football. In 1925, Dodge Connolly is a charming, brash football hero who has a dream to take his bar brawl buddies from the sandlot to packed stadiums. Dodge puts on that Clooney charm and convinces a college football star and war hero to join his ragtag ranks. This new champ is almost too good to be true, and Lexie Littleton, a cute little flirt and a spitfire newswoman, aims to prove that's the case. Dodge fight to keep his guys together and to get the girl. Starring Renee Zellweger, John Krasinski, Wayne Duvall and Jonathan Pryce. Rated PG-13

NIM'S ISLAND

Break out the magic wand and get ready for pixie dust as you journey to Nim's Island, a magical place ruled by a young girl's imagination. It is an existence that mirrors that of her favorite literary character, Alex Rover - the world's greatest adventurer. Starring Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin, Gerard Butler. Rated PG

THE RUINS

After you've downed your fill of tequila shooters at Carlos & Charlie's in Cancun you head out to check out the old Mexican ruins where you can probably score some outrageous weed and bong your brains out. Or you can meet some freaky German tourist looking for his kid brother, who was last seen with his girlfriend near some mysterious ruins and

he wants you to help find them. Starring nobody you've ever heard of including Jonathan Tucker, Laura Ramsey and Jena Malone. Rated R

SHINE A LIGHT

Let's spend the night together! In autumn 2006 the Rolling Stones gave two concerts at Beacon Theatre in New York. In a 2,800-seater old Broadway theatre that opened in 1928, living legends Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ron Wood and Charlie Watts performed before an enthusiastic audience that includes Hillary and Bill Clinton before she applied for new job. Guest appearances include Christina Aguilera, blues legends Buddy Guy and Jack White. Rated PG-13

APRIL 11

PROM NIGHT

Gee, have we been here before? A dark secret amongst a group of teens comes back to haunt them in the form of a vengeful killer on their prom night. Starring Brittany Snow, Johnathon Schaech. Rated PG-13 (Who would make a PG-13 horror movie?)

SMART PEOPLE

Professor Lawrence Wetherhold is a brilliant, monumentally self-possessed intellectual giant. His world is filled with a headstrong teenage daughter and his adopted brother who's freeloading from the prof. on an extended stay. Just as Dr. Larry is about to be crowned the king of boredom he accidentally encounters his delightful former student Janet. Guess who's moving to the head of the class? Starring Dennis Quaid, Thomas Haden Church and Sarah Jessica Parker. Rated R

APRIL 18

88 MINUTES

Dr. Jack Gramm is a college professor who moonlights as a forensic psychiatrist for the FBI. When psych-doc Gramm receives a death threat claiming he has only 88 minutes to live, he must use all his skills and training to narrow down the possible suspects. There's a full deck to choose from: a disgruntled student, a jilted former lover, and a serial killer who is already on death row. Who's out to whack Jack? Starring Al Pacino, Alicia Witt, Leelee Sobieski, Neal McDonough and Benjamin McKenzie. Rated R

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL

Ditch the witch and head to the islands for sun, fun and...your ex with her new beau. Peter has survived a devastating break-up with his girlfriend, TV sitcom star Sarah Marshall, and heads to Hawaii for a little vacation to try his best to forget the charms of Sarah. But Sarah is vacationing in the same exclusive resort as Peter, along with her new boyfriend. Starring Paul Rudd, Kristen Bell, Jason Segel. Rated R

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM

Jackie Chan teams with Jet Li to star in and produce this martial arts fight fest. While hunting down bootleg kung-fu DVDs in a Chinatown pawnshop, Jason makes an extraordinary discovery that sends

him hurtling back in time to ancient China. Jason must free the fabled warrior the Monkey King, who has been imprisoned by the evil Jade Warlord. But only by learning the true methods of kung fu can Jason hope to succeed - and find a way to get back home.

STREET KINGS

Tom Ludlow, a veteran LAPD Vice Detective, sets out on a quest to discover the killers of his former partner. Ludlow teams up with a young Robbery Homicide Detective to track his partner's killers through the scum alleys of Los Angeles. The two detectives track down the murderers and confront them in an attempt to bring them to justice. Starring Keanu Reeves, Forest Whitaker, Hugh Laurie, Chris Evans and Jay Mohr. Rated R

APRIL 25

DECEPTION

Maybe the former NY governor might relate. An accountant is introduced to a mysterious sex club known as The List by his lawyer friend. But in this new world, he soon becomes the prime suspect in a woman's disappearance and a multi-million dollar heist. (Sex, money, lawyers and accountants - oh my!) Starring Ewan McGregor and Hugh Jackman. Rated R

BABY MAMA

Businesswoman Kate Holbrook has finally determined she's ready to become a mom. She discovers she has only a million-to-one chance of getting pregnant. Working girl Angie Ostrowski becomes her unlikely surrogate. After they learn that Angie's pregnant, Kate goes into nesting mode: reading childcare books, baby-proofing the apartment and researching top pre-schools. Things get crazy when Angie loses her apartment and moves in with Kate. In a comic battle of wills, they will struggle their way getting ready for the baby's arrival. Starring Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Sigourney Weaver, Dax Shepard and Greg Kinnear.

HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY

Harold learns that Maria, the girl he lusts after, has set off for Amsterdam. The pair decide to pursue her so Harold can proclaim his love. However, a freaked out airline passenger mistakes Kumar for a terrorist, and the plane is diverted as the duo get stuck in a case of comic mistaken identity. It's their island vacation with water-boarding instead of wake boarding. Starring John Cho, Kal Penn, Eric Winter, David Krumholtz and Neil Patrick Harris.

SPECIAL SHOWINGS

Grand Canyon: River at Risk Now showing at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater . Set against the immense backdrop of the majestic Grand Canyon, this movie will take audiences on an exhilarating river-rafting adventure with a team of explorers who are committed to bringing awareness to global water issues set to music from Dave Matthews Band. The film is focused on raising awareness of specific issues from water management and conservation to individuals' responsibility to help preserve natural resources. Also playing at the IMAX Theatre are *Roving Mars*, *Sea Monsters*, *Dolphins* and *Everest*. Info: (904) 940-IMAX or wgv.com.

April 7 **King Kong Screening** In honor of the 75th anniversary of the original release of *King Kong*, the original version of the film will be screened with special guest speakers Michael Jacobson (webmaster of the Jax site DVD Movie Central) and Matt Soergel (former movie reviewer for The Florida

Times-Union). The *King Kong* screening will be preceded by a screening of Laurel & Hardy's 1932 short *The Chimp*. Free to all ages; free sodas and "Kong Cake" will be served to all comers. Pablo Creek Branch Library, 13295 Beach Blvd. - 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Info: www.leaveemlaughing.com or (904) 246-0312

April 21 **Invisible Children** This movie exposes the effects of a 20 year-long war on the children of Northern Uganda. These children live in fear of abduction by rebel soldiers, and are being forced to fight as a part of violent army. This wonderfully reckless documentary is fast paced, with an MTV beat, and is something truly unique. Murray Hill Theater - 6 pm, Tickets: \$8 Followed by a special performance by Second Thief.

Midnight Movies at the San Marco Theatre

All movies at the San Marco Theatre at 11:55 pm, Info: (904) 396-4845
April 11- 12 **Rushmore**
April 25-26 **The Shining**
May 2-3 **The Blues Brothers**

MOCA Underground

MOCA's latest Underground Movie series will cover the topic of Religion in April. Films begins at 7 pm. Tickets are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. MOCA, 333 North Laura St., Info: (904) 366-6911 or mocajacksonville.org.

April 9 **For the Bible Tells Me** Through the experiences of five very normal, Christian, American families we discover in this provocative and entertaining documentary how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child.

April 16 **Ushpizin** This film (the title translates to "holy guests") is a revelatory and humorous look at the daily lives of ultra-Orthodox Jews learning, living, and loving in modern-day Israel. Yiddish w/English subtitles.

April 23 **Ten Questions for the Dalai Lama** Why do the poor often seem happier than the rich? Must a society lose its traditions in order to move into the future? How do you reconcile a commitment to non-violence when faced with violence? These and seven others are posed to His Holiness the Dalai Lama by the filmmaker, weaving observations from his own journeys with the wisdom of an extraordinary spiritual leader.

Not Just for Baby Boomers Film Series

Enjoy free showings of Boomers' favorite films on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month at 5:45 p.m. in the Main Library's Hicks Auditorium. Info: (904) 630-1741 April 10 **Fantasia** April 24th **E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial**

Night Owl Cinema

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre will show movies every other Friday in April. Movies begin at 8 pm and food is available from local restaurants. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, A1A South in St. Augustine. On April 11 **Superman** (1978) and April 25 **The Goonies** (1985).

Movies In The Park

Bring your picnic dinners, lawn chairs and blankets every Friday night in April to enjoy free movies under the spring stars at the historic Treaty Oak. Jessie Ball DuPont Park, 1123 Prudential Drive. On April 4 **Madagascar** (2005), April 11 **Ghostbusters** (1984), April 18 **Hook** (1991) and April 25 **Goonies** (1985). Info: 630-CITY or www.jaxparks.com.

festing on a budget

Jacksonville Film Festival

by jon bosworth

"Cinema is an art form that encompasses everything, but it's so affordable," says Jesse Rodriguez, the new Executive Director of the Jacksonville Film Events office and the Jacksonville Film Festival.

Less esoteric, more cinematic and more like a real film festival. These are some of the goals he has for the 6th annual Jacksonville Film Festival. Rodriguez is not new to the JFF, in fact he has been a part of it since its inception, but this is his first year as the Executive Director of the festival. In years past he has been responsible for some of the Fest's more unique showings, including last year's Viva Cinema, which brought some Latin films that proved to be among the most heralded of the JFF. If you were one of the people that considered themselves something of a cinephile at last year's festival, but still didn't "get" a good bit of the films you watched, you are exactly who Rodriguez is thinking of as he programs this year's festival.

"It's so important to reflect the community. [Last year's festival] didn't really reflect the community. At least the community that I have come to know that Jacksonville is now. Being here and doing the research on the demographics and learning about the people that are living here, there is a large Latino population and an Asian population and a Middle Eastern population. I would never have known that by watching the films at the film festival. We are here to serve the community and should be a mirror of the community," said Rodriguez when EU spoke with him at Festival headquarters in the Florida Theatre building.

Expect a number of changes to the Fest, but most of them will work to your advantage. Whereas in year's past you have been forced to pick one of up to three movies that were playing simultaneously on various sides of town to watch, forgoing the others perhaps forever, since many of the films that play the JFF never come back through our art-house-less market, this year Rodriguez promises to program the festival in a way that allows you to catch every feature-length movie showing.

The first step toward making this possible was to extend the JFF from a four day weekend to a week-long event. The second step was to make sure that overlapping films get replayed so that if you were forced to pick one during an original screening, you can select the other for

it's second showing. The third step was to make showtimes a little more spaced out so that film fans have time to make it from one theater to the next between screenings.

The final step was to create a sort of "film festival village," making the venues that are used the most all close together, so that attendees don't have to race to their cars and scramble across town to see their next flick, they can simply stroll through our beautiful Downtown from one presentation to the next. He does still intend to utilize San Marco and 5 Points for some of the films that will play during the week, but this year's event will have a far greater concentration on Downtown.

"It's walking distance from the Florida Theatre to the Library, and those venues are confirmed, so what we might be doing is creating a film festival village so that people can just walk. Park your car for the whole day and just see films... Every film festival's ideal situation is a village, where people can just walk. It cuts down on confusion, on the operations, on the stress of it."

These may all seem like intuitive decisions, but the Fest has been surprisingly void of this sort of

pragmatism in years past. One possible explanation for this could be Rodriguez's experience.

"This is the only festival I had ever attended that only showed films once. There are your hardcore film fans that would see every film playing if they could. And if they can't, it's because of the programming," said Rodriguez. "Now every audience



Cast of *Meteor*



Ali Carter as Evelyn Garland in *Crazy*

member and film lover will be able to see any film they should choose to and not have to miss anything."

member and film lover will be able to see any film they should choose to and not have to miss anything."

Rodriguez started his career in film with a genuine love for the Chicago International Film Festival. When he was younger in Chicago, he volunteered his time every year to be a part of that event, which is one of the country's largest competitive film festivals. He would coordinate his vacation time to coincide with the festival every year and fell increasingly in love with the experience.

Before long Rodriguez found himself hosting the filmmakers that traveled from around the world to the Chicago International. He would constantly be in the company of filmmakers discussing their craft. From critiques of film to technical advice, he learned as much from being around those filmmakers as he would later learn becoming an actual filmmaker.

In addition to working his way up from volunteer to finance manager in the Chicago International Film Festival, all while juggling real employment the rest of the year, he also got to the point that he was representing films and programming portions of that festival. It was a slow and steady process that led him to working for the Chicago International full-time and eventually to make films himself.

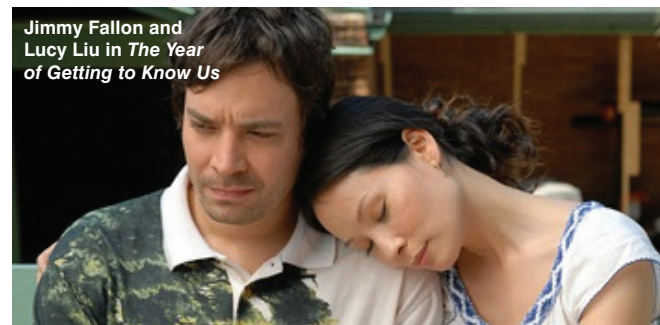
Rodriguez wasn't an auteur, but he found films and scripts that he saw a good feature in, then he would come on board as a producer and help bring the film to completion and then get it the distribution or exposure it needed. So Rodriguez comes to Jacksonville not only experienced as management, but also with the sensibilities of a filmmaker.

This experience is crucial to the success of the Jacksonville Film Festival because it isn't just about showing great films that people want to see, it is about cultivating an event that the international community of filmmakers talks about, thus spreading good will among filmmakers and making them want to bring their best films to our festival.

"How you are treated and how your host treats you transcends. That will determine whether that filmmaker goes back to Paris or to LA or to DeMoines, Iowa and says 'I had the best time in Jacksonville.' Its important that they be treated well and eat well, because most of them are very poor. One of the filmmakers is literally living out of his car, but his film was in Sundance and it's coming here. It is so very, very important that they don't have to worry about eating. They can come here with no money and still have a good time. It's up to us to make sure that happens."

So is everything that Rodriguez is bringing to the JFF better than previous years? Is there any downside to this changing of the guard? Well actually, quite possibly yes. For one thing, Rodriguez stepped into the Director's chair of a festival that was already in a deficit from last year. This meant he had to cut a lot of corners and rely a lot heavier on partnerships and sponsorships. His charge was essentially to recover

(continued on page 38)



Jimmy Fallon and Lucy Liu in *The Year of Getting to Know Us*




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(FILM FESTIVAL, continued from page 37)

from last year's debt while forging ahead with this year's event, all while making this year bigger and better than ever before. But the challenge of operating on no budget is that marketing and publicity suffers, hence there still being no information at jacksonvillefilmfestival.com, no posters around town and little-to-no word on the streets, even though the festival is next month. Rodriguez is counting heavily on the appeal of the films to make up for that lack of awareness.

"In Jacksonville, there is a craving for international and independent cinema. I really feel that. Our objective here at the Film Festival is to make anyone that is dropping eight dollars or ten dollars to come out of that saying 'That was an amazing film, I'm glad I came,' instead of being risk-takers and thinking 'I don't know if this film will be any good.' I want to establish a reputation. If it's at the Jacksonville Film Festival, it's gonna be good."

For longtime attendees of the JFF, there will be some sacrifices. Among them is the absence of Tim Massett. When Massett came here from Austin many years ago, he brought his love for cinema to a town that only knew megaplex fodder and big-budget Hollywood celluloid. But through his diligent work, Massett exposed local cinephiles to great film, through midnight movies at the San Marco Theatre, Subterranean Cinema showings at his warehouse, also known as The Pit, and through programming the film festival the last couple of years. Not only did he bring through groundbreaking cinema that Jacksonville would have never otherwise seen, but he also created The Talkies.

The Talkies was originally an event of the JFF, which brought an historic filmmaker to Jacksonville to watch one of their pinnacle works displayed in the historic San Marco Theatre's big screen with running live commentary from the filmmaker. So far this event, which has never been done outside of Jacksonville, has brought George Romero, John Waters and Herschell Gordon Lewis to town. This event gave the JFF a much-needed sense of film history, rather than just a glimpse at contemporary cinema. Without the frame of reference of what made films of the past great, local audiences cannot understand what makes current cinema great.

Another loss will be those hilariously low-budget horror films that Massett was always able to bring to the JFF. You can expect less films like *Blood Car* and *The Creature of the Sunny Side Up Trailer Park* and more international and mainstream indie fare. You can also expect more glamour and glitz than in previous years.

"The theme of the whole festival is Rolling out the Red. Of course on Saturday night we'll have the film [at the Florida Theatre], *The Year of Getting to Know Us*, and then we'll have the gala at the courtyard in the new library."

This year's festival is promising to be even better than last year's, although we won't really know until after it has passed whether Rodriguez can live up to his stated intentions. He is certain that Jacksonville audiences will appreciate the way that the film selection process this year is going through a committee to better reflect the community.

"We have a film selection committee that is comprised of ten people and they come from all different backgrounds... I have a mixture of people. They are educators, filmmakers, and film lovers. Everyone looks at cinema differently. We have a Parisian that is a guest artist here at the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. He is a choreographer that has done a lot of film work in dance and choreography in film. We have a Brazilian educator. We have a hairdresser that when she talks about movies her eyes pop out. So we get a nice mix."

Another benefit will be the way the various programs are defined. Each film in the festival will be part of a sub-series, programs such as "Europa Europa" for the European fare, "Black Cinema" for the African-American offerings and "Made in Jacksonville" for films made locally and several other categories, including, for the first time in the JFF, a program of Asian films.

"*North Star* is the anchor for our Black Cinema program. It won an award at Sundance. That one is confirmed. It is one of those films that, I don't care what other films come in, this one is amazing."

Just as the JFF has enjoyed the premieres of Jacksonville-made films *Lonely Hearts* (starring John Travolta) and last year's *Throwing Stars*, this year's Fest will premiere the Jimmy Fallon and Lucy Liu vehicle that was being shot here last year. Formerly called "Rocket" the film's current title is *The Year of Getting to Know Us*. Some other standout films that were mentioned during the interview with Rodriguez include *Crazy*, *Just Before Eleven*, *Inside the Circle*, and *Meteoro*.

"The opening night film, *Crazy*, is a special film for many reasons. If anyone loves music or the music industry, they're gonna love this film. If anyone loves country music or jazz music, they're gonna love this film. It's in the vein of *Walk the Line* or *Coal Miner's Daughter*. ... People that come to this movie will love it as cinema... This film is also a film that's going to be embraced by the people of Jacksonville, not only because of the subject, Hank Garland lived his last forty years [in Jacksonville], but because it is a film that's accessible and people can feel comfortable in, anyone in Jacksonville. Rather than having this pretentious art house opening film that no one can relate to, best to have a great film that can appeal to a wider audience. It's a wonderful film. And the filmmakers have been so nice and they are so excited about being in Jacksonville."

Nominees for the annual Tortuga Award (past recipients include Bill Murray and John Waters) are being kept under tight lips around the Fest's Forsyth Street offices, but rumor has it we can expect another luminary to attend the event this year and accept Jacksonville's Tortuga for their Hollywood mantle. Even though our event runs up against Cannes, one of cinema's most prestigious international festivals, this year. You'll just have to wait until the Saturday night of the gala event to find out.

"I do feel that Jacksonville as a city is a wonderful host. The look of the city, the vibe of the city, the enthusiasm of the audience, and of course, the potential. Jacksonville does everything with growth in mind. The new library Downtown, for instance, was not built for the Jacksonville of today, but for the Jacksonville of tomorrow."

The Jacksonville Film Festival will occur May 15th through May 21st and will include 35 to 40 feature-length films as well as a number of shorts, several workshops and nightly parties. Films will be shown at the Florida Theatre, the Jacksonville Main Branch Library and the Terry Theatre inside of the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, as well as some yet-to-be determined venues which are likely to include the San Marco Theatre, MOCA Jacksonville and Fuel in 5 Points. Around 30% of the festival will be international films, the rest will be American independents. Set the dates on your calendar and let your boss know you won't be in that week. Since all the golf enthusiasts took off for the TPC, the following week will be your turn to take off of work and check out the 2008 Jacksonville Film Festival.



small films on the big screen

three local filmmakers premiere their work at the San Marco Theatre by jon bosworth

WHAT: Free showing of Short Films *Haberdash*, *Abigail's Spring* and *Face 2 Face*
WHERE: San Marco Theatre (1996 San Marco Blvd)
WHEN: April 19, 12:30 pm

"Francis Ford Coppola in the 60s or 70s predicted that in the future you'll have a briefcase and everything you need to make a movie will fit in it. It has gotten pretty close to that," said local filmmaker Patrick Barry, creator of the film *Haberdash*, when he met up with EU to talk about the local premiere of three new films at the historic San Marco Theatre.

The phrase "local film" wasn't something you would frequently hear around town twenty years ago. Even low-budget films still required tens of thousands of dollars before they could ever make it to any sort of a big screen. But dramatic advancements in technology have not only made it possible for nearly anyone to make a film, but they have also allowed hopeful filmmakers to advance their skills and abilities beyond what was possible before.

"I have a MySpace page, and it is good if you don't have a website. You can put stuff up for free, but on the other hand some thirteen year old in Anchorage, Alaska films his dog and starts his MySpace Film account. And then there are two million hits of 'Dog Using Toilet!'" Barry laughs.

Barry admits that the best thing about him and the two other filmmakers premiering their new films at the San Marco Theatre on Saturday, April 19 at 12:30 in the afternoon is that although they take film very seriously, they don't take themselves too seriously. But that's not to say they are just another of the throngs of people skipping together films. Quite the contrary.



Travis Sauter as Gus in *Haberdash*

haberdash

Patrick Barry graduated from Florida State University with an art degree and considers himself something of a film purist. His film, the first of the three that will show on April 19th, was actually shot on 16 mm film, a rarity for sure in this age of the digital takeover. Of course shooting on film meant his movie grossly exceeded the expense of most locally made films (and required an investor), but it is also a logical step to take in a world where it is increasingly difficult to separate yourself from the novice or "art" filmmakers that output two movies a week.

Haberdash does have the rich texture of a movie shot on film, and the characters in *Haberdash* are genuinely well constructed. The actors even manage to look and feel like the characters they are portraying, pulling them off of the screen. In fact, the light-hearted attitude of the film makes it not seem too stoic, in spite of it being shot in black and white. The opening shot is easily my favorite of the entire program.

I would love to say the entire film escaped looking like a locally produced movie, but the fact is that the story arc seemed rushed and the plot wasn't allowed the time it

needed to truly include all of the character elements that were dropped in sort of pell mell. This is a complaint I have with a great deal of filmmakers-they insist on being auteurs and writing and directing their own work. Barry's talent is clearly in directing and editing, but his story is still cohesive enough to keep your interest, even if it is a little sloppy.

abigail's spring

Antonio Sarte made the second film that will show in the premiere, *Abigail's Spring*, and his skill behind the camera is apparent. Again there is little to no story arc, which many will concede to the realm of art film ambiguity, but the vivid colors and the amazing scenery of the location in Live Oak is exquisitely captured. The sounds of babbling brooks and the crisp clarity of the pristine spring water are masterfully recreated. Although the allegory of the changing water in the same space is heavy-handed, the allegory is all of the story that we are given. Were Sarte to be teamed with a writer, the films he would be capable of would be outstanding. The acting in this piece, especially by Scott Rymer, was the finest of the entire program.

face 2 face

Michael J. Breen's satire of consumerist America is easily the most rewarding of the films in the program, although the acting is the weakest. There is little subtlety in Breen's montages about the self-image of women in 21st century America and the role of advertising in crafting unrealistic goals, but this flaw is quickly overshadowed by the story. The reason it is such a strong film is because there is an actual character-centered crisis presented in the opening scenes. There is a catharsis, a change, and a resolution. Aristotle's story arc is followed and the viewer is left with a sense of completion. It even has a denouement! Of course carrying a story of this sort of complexity means relying heavily on the talent of your actors, one shortcoming of the Jacksonville film community.

"The film industry is decentralized by the Internet and new media. As an actor, there is a plus to going to New York or LA, but as a filmmaker there is less importance as maybe fifty years ago," said Barry.

The flip side to that argument is that it means the decent actors are not in the places where you are making your movies. Barry didn't say that, in fact he had nothing but praise for all of the people that made their time and talent available to helping these filmmakers realize their visions.

"If you meet people in Jacksonville who do film or make music there is the sense that they are doing it for the right reasons. Not that people out there don't, but there is a kind of cynicism out there that you don't find as much here."

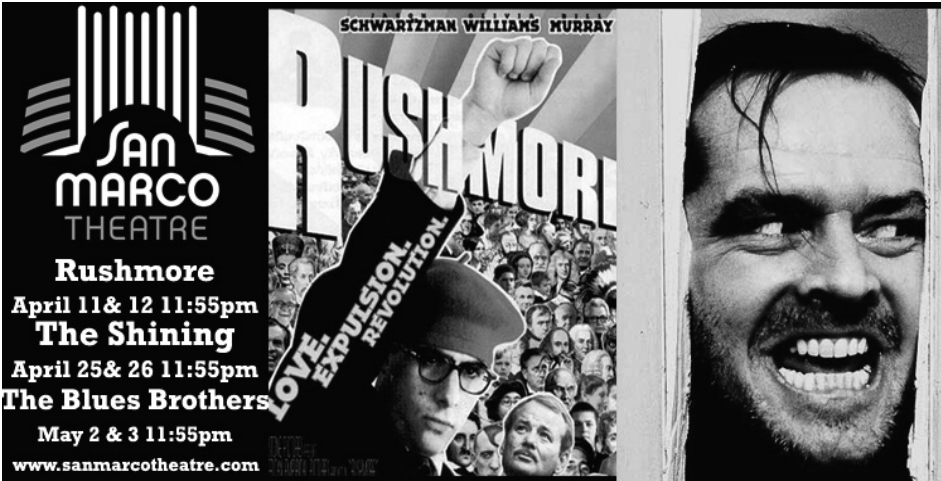
With all of that said, don't use any of these critiques as a reason to not attend the April premiere. These filmmakers have all shown remarkable skills and these films will surprise you. Go into the theatre expecting novice films and you will walk away amazed that they could be crafted by local filmmakers. And notice that they are novices, not amateurs. Sarte won the Best Short Film award for his previous short film, *Was It Something I Said?* at Worldfest. Charleston and Breen's previous short, *Saffron Burrows*, starred a young Anna Faris (who movie buffs will remember from Sophia Coppola's *Lost in Translation*) and went on to screen at the New York Film Festival and the LA Film Festival. Barry's previous film, *A Swiftly Fading Spirit*, recently screened at the Southern Winds Film Festival, the Gem City Film Festival and has been selected to the invitation-only Krasnogorski Film Festival in Moscow. So they aren't rookies making bad films in the park on the weekend. They are bonafide filmmakers. But why screen them now? Were they not good enough to make it into the Jacksonville Film Festival in May?

"We were holding off with the hope that we would screen them at the Jacksonville Film Festival, but when they released what they were looking for, the shorts had to be fifteen minutes or less and their features had to be an hour or more, so we were stuck in no man's land... If you have a short film program you don't want one movie to take up half of it."

It will be interesting to see what films the Jacksonville Film Festival puts up on their "Made in Jacksonville" program this year if they are not including these three local filmmakers, who have been among the most active in the last couple of years on a grass roots level.

From the opening shot of *Haberdash* through the closing credits of *Face 2 Face* (which roll to the sounds of local rock band Crash the Satellites) you will recognize many faces and places in this program and the three films together come out to an hour and a half running time. So in the time of one regular feature-length film, you get to see three films with which you have a lot more in common than anything at the megaplex. And this film program is free! What better way to spend a Saturday afternoon?

Barry also wanted it noted that the last film of the program, *Face 2 Face*, is not appropriate for younger viewers. For more information about this free premiere go to bluellamastudios.com.





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